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P.19

News:

**Glacier Funeral**

Memorialising Okjökull with Andri Snær

Culture:

**Gate Le Bon**

Mercury nominee coming to Iceland

Food:

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Travel:

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Hidden pearl in the deep south

Plus!

**GIG GUIDE × CITY MAP × TRAVEL IDEAS × FOOD**





COVER PHOTO: Hörður Sveins Hordursveinsson.com

ABOUT THE COVER: Layering irony on irony on irony, the cover was a collaboration between Hörður, our Art Director and the band. Mocking

sanctimony, but also metal tropes, we sought to strike a balance between the "menschness" of the band and their iconicness and imminent global fame.

# First



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## EDITORIAL

# We Want Human Rights For Your Military Games



US Vice President **Mike Pence** is coming to Iceland in early September. It's fair to say that Pence's personal values about human rights are completely contrary to Icelandic values, especially when it comes to **LBGTQ+ rights**. There has been huge progress in Iceland when it comes to establishing rights and protections of minority groups and those in a more vulnerable situation. For example, Iceland passed legislation about gender determination a few months ago, while Pence has actively fought against and systematically marginalised minority groups in the United States based on their gender identification and sexual orientation.

There is a universal understanding in Iceland that people are free to be

whoever they are, and it is enshrined in law.

Iceland has had a **good relationship** with the **United States** for decades—and it's a friendship worth maintaining. But good friends need to have an honest discussion every now and then. And now would be the right time for Iceland's Foreign Minister **Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson** to address his nation's view on human rights for everyone—not only those that fit the Christian idealism of Mike Pence. But Pence, of course, has his own agenda in visiting Iceland. He wants to talk about increased military operations in the area. Something that Icelanders—people known to be proud of their peaceful independence and lack of an army—are not fond of.

What I see here is a bargaining chip. If the vice president wants to secure an agreement about increased operations

of the US military forces in and around Iceland, he needs to **give us something in return**. And given that **Iceland** is one of the **ten richest countries** in the world (we are in fifth place per capita; the US is eighth), we don't need the money.

But **we care about human rights**. The only acceptable agreement here is to give the United States space in exchange for increased human rights for **LBGTQ+** in their own homeland. I am aware that it's unusual for a small nation to interfere in such a way with the domestic politics of another state, let alone one as omnipresent as the US. We are also aware that the **options** for the **US government** to operate in the north of Europe have been **narrowed** significantly after the recent diplomatic mess created with Denmark.

The road to a better world is never conventional. And Iceland has never considered itself a small conventional nation. It's always comes down to courage. And courage we have. Keep in mind that our forefathers wrote these words in **Hávamál**, hundreds of years ago:

Cattle die, kindred die,  
Every man is mortal:  
But I know one thing that never dies,  
The glory of the great dead. **VG** 🇮🇸



**Elin Elisabet** is an illustrator and cartoonist born and raised in Borgarnes. At the tender age of 15, Elin moved to Reykjavik and hasn't looked back, except for the annual springtime impulse to move someplace quiet and keep chickens. Elin likes folk music, stationery, seal videos, the country of Ireland, and eggs.



**Hannah Jane Cohen** is based out of Iceland by way of New York. An alumni of Columbia University, Hannah has lived on five continents and speaks three languages fluently. Her visionary work is known for expanding the definitions of emotion, introspection, and above all else, taste.



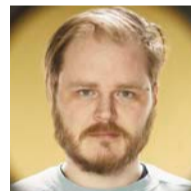
**Alexander Jean Edvard Le Sage de Fontenay** is a Reykjavik-born part-time DJ (under the pseudonym Bervit), event-planner and lover of art, creation and aesthetics. Most recent endeavors include co-producing The Grapevine's own Grassroots concerts at Húrra and LungA Art Festival's busy event schedule.



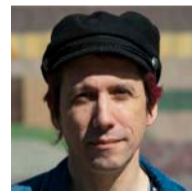
**Shruthi Basappa** traded the warmth of Indian summers for Iceland's Arctic winds. She's a food enthusiast masquerading as an architect at Sei Studio, and loves obsessive attention to detail. When not leading our Best of Reykjavik food panel, she can be found trying to become a Michelin restaurant inspector.



**Logan Sigurðsson** is a U.S. expat that now calls Iceland home. She's currently pursuing a MA in International Affairs. Logan manages Stop the Traffik: Iceland, and has a diverse background in social issues. Find her at your local cafe throwing money at an overpriced cup of eco-vegan-soy-whatever.



**Sveinbjörn Pálsson** is our Art Director. He's responsible for the design of the magazine and the cover photography. When he's not working here, he DJs as Terrordisco, hosts the Funkpátturinn radio show, or sits at a table in a Laugardalur café, drinking copious amounts of coffee and thinking about fonts.



**Andie Fontaine** has lived in Iceland since 1999 and has been reporting since 2003. They were the first foreign-born member of the Icelandic Parliament, in 2007-08, an experience they recommend for anyone who wants to experience a workplace where colleagues work tirelessly to undermine each other.



**a rawlings** is Grapevine's literature correspondent, also covering environmental news, travel, and more. An interdisciplinary artist whose work focuses on environmental ethics, dysfluency, and watery bodies, her books include 'Wide slumber for lepidopterists' and 'Sound of Mull.'



**Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir** is a national treasure. One of Iceland's leading illustrators, when she's not drawing in her unique style, she's the front-woman of Icelandic electro-pop supergroup FM Belfast. Her comic strip Lóaboratorium appears every issue on page 8, and is also available as a daily dose on her Twitter.

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Elinborg Harpa

## What Are Icelanders Talking About?

Gripes and grumbles from social media

Words: **Andie Fontaine** Photo: **Stöð 2**

**NEWS** Apart from **Israel/Palestine** and **penile circumcision**, few topics are as contentious as **veganism**, as a recent discussion in Reykjavík City Council attests. Recently, the Icelandic Vegan Society issued a statement that pointed out what climate scientists have long been saying: the meat industry is directly linked to Earth's **greenhouse gases**, and reducing the consumption of animal products would certainly help in the fight against the climate crisis. Ergo, the Society recommended that area primary schools begin taking steps to reduce animal products in school lunches. This has sparked a backlash, in particular from conservatives, who contend that a vegan diet would be bad for children (not true) and that a lack of meat in their diet would mean a lack of protein (also not true). The topic itself has prompted Icelanders across social media to offer their own hot takes on veganism, from all sides of the issue. Imagine getting mad about what people don't eat.

Although it made international headlines when it was reported that Prime Minister **Katrín Jakobsdóttir** would be out of the country during US Vice President **Mike Pence's** visit to Iceland next month, it has now come to light that Pence will probably stick around long enough to meet her. The fact that he is even coming at all is itself controversial. Protests are being planned, and the express purpose of his visit—the impending updates to be made at the military base in Keflavík—has certainly attracted criticism. But it's

Pence's politics, in particular his **far-right** attitudes towards **queer people**, that make his arrival particularly galling for a country known for its progressive attitudes about sex and gender.

Lastly, the Reykjavík police are under criticism for the only **arrest made at Reykjavík Pride: Elinborg Harpa Óunundardóttir**. This activist, who is also queer, was stopped by

three police officers, slammed to the ground and arrested. The charge? "Being a known troublemaker," to paraphrase the police, who suspected she was only attending Pride to protest. First of all, protesting is not only a respected tradition in Iceland; it's also perfectly legal. Second, you can't exactly arrest someone because you don't like them (for context: Elinborg had previously gotten into a scuffle with police during a protest for refugee rights, where unprovoked police violence was recorded on video). The **National Queer Organisation** and chair of the Reykjavík City Human Rights Council, **Dóra Björt Guðjónsdóttir**, have both requested a meeting with the police and are demanding an internal investigation of the matter. ❖



ELÍN ELISABET



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We have named this toothy lomgboi Steini

# Iceland Hates Sharks

The country was one of a few to vote against a hunting ban

**NEWS** You probably already knew that Iceland has long ignored the **international moratorium on whale hunting**. As of late August, the hunting of sharks can be added to the list of activities Iceland supports.

Iceland was one of a handful of countries to vote against a shark hunting ban at the **CITES** (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) conference held in **Geneva** on August 25th, despite none of the protected sharks being native to Icelandic waters, Visir reports.

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

Photo: **Willyam / Adobe Stock**

The overfishing of sharks has been a topic of concern for CITES, prompt-

ing the submission of three separate articles concerning 18 species of shark, including the mako. The majority of countries involved voted in favour of a hunting ban on these sharks, although some countries had objections to hunting bans on specific species.

Iceland was one of a handful of countries to vote against banning the hunting of any of these species, despite the fact that none of the 18 species involved swim in Icelandic waters.

**“We are a fishing people”**

“Icelanders have been very reluctant

to agree to protections on fish,” biologist **Jón Már Halldórsson** told reporters. “We are a fishing people, and there are **greater interests** that lie in other species. Foreign organisations have fought for limiting the fishing of cod, for example.”

Shark hunting does not comprise a large portion of Iceland’s overall fishing revenue. There are five species of shark that are hunted in Icelandic waters: the Greenland shark, the porbeagle, and three species of dogfish. The Greenland shark is the most popular of all these, and is the species usually used in hákarl, Iceland’s notorious fermented shark. ♡

**FOOD OF ICELAND**

# Hjónabandssæla



The Icelandic model may seem odd from a foreign perspective, with cohabitation being a popular option for couples rather than marriage. In fact, it was recorded that only **30% of children in Iceland are born in wedlock**. Yet there are still those few couples left that prefer a little thing called tradition.

They want to keep that special moment special and wait for the

wedding bells. They have the sense to know that this experience isn’t something you share with just anyone, but with someone you actually love. That’s right, I’m talking about eating hjónabandssæla, the traditional Icelandic **“happy marriage cake.”**

With its melt-in-your-mouth buttery oat crust and gooey rhubarb jelly center, apparently it’s so

good that people nowadays just eat it whenever they feel like it. I served it at my wedding—so trust me, I get the craze—but as much as you insatiable young folks would like to go out and get right to it, remember your values. Don’t let yourself fall to peer pressure next time you’re at a dinner party. Eat hjónabandssæla at your wedding—the way God intended. **LS** ♡

**ASKA**

# Chemist

**Q: How Well Prepared Would Iceland Be For A Nuclear Disaster?**



Words: **Helgi Rafn Hröðmarsson**  
Photo: **Grapevine art dept.**

Could Iceland handle a nuclear disaster? We asked Dr. Helgi Rafn Hröðmarsson, aka The Cosmic Chemist to find out.

As Iceland does not possess any nuclear plants or reactors, the chances of a serious nuclear threat are low. But there are still several risk factors, including nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers that sometimes come within Icelandic territorial waters. Furthermore, there is the threat of Icelandic tourists who visited places that suffered nuclear meltdowns being contaminated by radiation when they reenter the country.

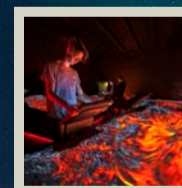
**Iceland does have a plan in case of a nuclear threat** and among the preemptive necessities are iodine tablets. Iodine plays a key role in our cellular activity, helping to convert amino acid tyrosine into thyroid hormones. The thyroid cannot, however, differentiate between iodine isotopes. Unluckily, amongst radioactive fallout is iodine-131, a highly radioactive isotope known to cause mutation and cell death.

By ingesting an iodine tablet, the thyroid gland is overloaded with iodine and thus prevented from ingesting any more iodine, making the tablets pivotal in nuclear fallout prevention.

So how many iodine tablets does the Icelandic Directorate of Health have in stock? Well... 10,000. Icelandic inhabitants number over 360,000 which means that 3% of the population could be protected for up to ten days in case of a nuclear disaster. Again, the risk of nuclear fallout affecting the Icelandic populace is infinitesimal, but the number of tablets is still too low for comfort. But should you start stocking up on iodine tablets if the state will not? Eh... If you are paranoid enough to have a nuclear bunker you probably already have, so, maybe just carry on and **pretend that everything is fine.** ♡

# Volcano & Earthquake Exhibition

Photo: Eyjafjallajökull Eruption 2010



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# A Dangerous Cup Of Coffee

One more cup of extreme danger for the road

## ICELANDIC SUPERSTITIONS

Words: Valur Grettisson

Photo: Adobe Stock

Are you reading this over a seemingly innocent cup of coffee? Well watch yourself—there is nothing innocent

about it. Your very future is at stake. According to Icelandic superstition, you need to drink your coffee in

a meticulous manner lest you screw up your future for good. If you're going to take your chances—I get it, we need our caffeine—then be sure to **put the sugar in your coffee before the cream**. Under no circumstances put the cream first! That will result that you will not get married for the next seven years.

And here's some bad news for us (the ugly people): if you like your coffee hot you are in particular trouble. Drinking hot coffee will make you even uglier. Yeah. It's a real thing. But if you want to become more beautiful, you need to drink it ice cold. I mean, let's be honest, we do weirder things for the sake of our looks.

And now to the tricky part. If you, for some freakish reason, accidentally find two spoons in your cup, it could have devastating results, depending on your age and marital status. First, it could mean that you are going to have a party soon or you will be invited to one. Wait for it...but it could also mean that the party could be a baptism party (FML). Now, it could also mean that you will have twins within a year or you are secretly engaged.

And if your host or barista really hates you, they will give you a mismatching cup and saucer, which means that you will marry twice—or have an affair.

And now for the good news. If your coffee has bubbles, and you manage to sip them, you're in luck, you will become filthy rich. And it never fails.

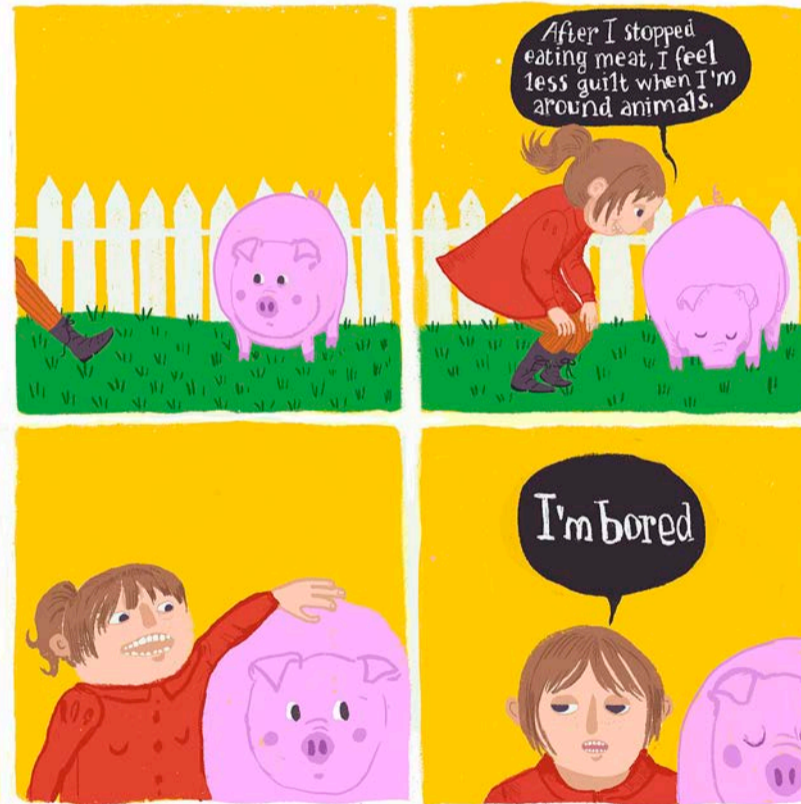
In short; drink tea, and treat people that try to give you coffee as mortal enemies hell-bent on destroying your life. ☹

## JUST SAYINGS

# „Flýtur meðan ekki sekkur“

This saying is basically another version of “þetta reddast,” which is the unofficial motto of the Icelandic nation, translating to “everything is going to work out.” But there is a slight difference. Literally, “flýtur meðan ekki sekkur” translates to, “it floats as long as doesn't sink.” Well duh. The saying is more of a criticism towards the status quo or incompetence, and it is often used by politicians when they want to point out that something is working, but not really. So the idiom is sort of a darker version of the careless attitude Icelanders take when they say something will just work out. Because, lets face it, it's kind of a messed up point of view. VG ☹

## LÓABORATORIUM

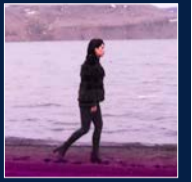


## GRAPEVINE PLAYLIST

The must-hear music of the issue



**ZÖE - Summer Funeral**  
Zöe will be the perfect medicine for those who once loved Evanescence but maybe won't admit it. “Summer Funeral,” her debut track, is a soaring, melodic and perhaps accidentally gothic af track that wouldn't feel out of place in an ‘Underworld’ film. The video, directed by Baldvin Z, is equally dramatic. **HJC**



**PORT - Canals**  
Journey back to late 80s goth with PORT's newest track. It's a bit more upbeat than their previous efforts, but still has that latent sense of wear-my-hair-over-my-face-so-no-one-sees-me. Pure old-school goth is a genre oft-ignored, but we're happy to see someone is trying to revive it. We like ‘Lost Boys’ too. **HJC**



**Óværa - Perðido en Islandía**  
This brutal quintet bring loads of energy and intensity with their new album. Combining the sounds of Pig Destroyer and The Dillinger Escape Plan, the punchy guitar riffs and guttural vocals will have you banging your head until your neck is sore. **SO**



**Stefán Eli - Pink Smoke**  
Owl City meets James Blake meets Lil Peep in the melodic drones of Stefán Eli. Autotuned to a T, complete with depressing lyrics and a light trap beat, it's the perfect pop antidote for the Soundcloud generation. Put it on your afterparty playlist. **HJC**



**Haukur H - Alvöru Thug**  
One listen to Haukur H's new song makes it perfectly clear that he is a real thug. A newcomer to the Icelandic hip-hop scene, Haukur H makes his debut with a dissonant loop and a heavy beat. It's a technical work of art that is fun to listen to and easy to play over and over again. **SO**



**Singapore Sling - Killer Classic**  
Rock is cool again, and Singapore Sling are making it known with this great lo-fi number. It's gritty, groovy and everything good rock and roll should be. **JG**

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THE REAL THING

## The Pepsi League



It's fairly safe to say that KR is going to win the Pepsi league this summer. The team has 40 points after the regular season. Second place are Breiðablik, from the proud city of Kópavogur, with 33 points. KR have had an outstanding season and it's hard to see any other team beating them in the coming weeks. Still, Breiðablik is on a roll. Last week, they beat the fire demons of Hafnarfjörður, FH, in an excruciating victory.

But there is always drama. That's what you want, right? There was a confusing moment at the Origo-Field, the home of Valur, when Stjarnan scored their third goal. Valur were well behind, with just a single point on the scoreboard. The referee acknowledged the goal and it appeared that Valur was kicking off. But then the fourth judge blew the whistle and said the player that scored the goal was offside. There was a whole lot of confusion, but in the end the show must go on. The contested goal was put out of its misery, and Valur managed to double its score, to end in a draw.

The outcome left Iceland's sports reporters baffled. There's no video assistant referee in the Pepsi League and the referee that clawed back it was in a poor position to see the goal. The chairman of the referee committee of KSÍ said in an interview with Vísir.is that the decision was made in a very confusing atmosphere, but they concluded that the decision was right. VG ☞



FOOTBALL



## The Return of the King

Icelandic footballers poised to dominate the 2019-20 season all across Europe

Words: Greig Robertson

Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

In a world first, Qatar's domestic league took precedence over the English Premier League thanks to one man. Iceland's lionheart, Aron Gunnarsson, returned to the frontline at long last, while his supporting battle captains, as ever, did not go quietly into that good night. Without further ado, here's how the smiters have been quenching their bloodthirst in recent weeks:

### Un-tanned iceman condemns Al Ahli to abyss

The king has returned. Aron Gunnarsson made his long-awaited league debut for Al Arabi in the Qatar Stars League on Friday, propelling The Red

Deviils to a 3-1 win against Al Ahli. Aron could have been forgiven for thinking he'd been transported to 2012, when Cardiff owner Vincent Tan changed Cardiff's home colours from blue to red, with Al Arabi wearing an eerily similar kit to that worn by the Bluebirds. The face of Heimir Hallgrímsson in the dugout, as opposed to Malky Mackay,

**“Whispers out of the Middle East say Aron's next move is to annex Qatar and rename it Greater Iceland.”**

clearly reassured the Iceland captain that he wasn't in a horrible nightmare, allowing him to pillage without mercy or inhibition. Whispers out of the Middle East say Aron's next move is to annex Qatar and rename it Greater Iceland. Long live the king.

### Gylfi scores scorching (sort of) hat-trick

Iceland talisman Gylfi Sigurðsson completed a hat-trick of games without notching a goal or assist in Everton's 2-0 smiting away at Aston Villa. The Viking Virtuoso's long-range, geysir-like piledrivers were nowhere to be seen before he mooched off just after the hour mark, ruining the evenings of millions of fantasy players. Friday's defeat against Dean Smith's newly-promoted Villans capped a mixed start for the Toffees, who now have a win, draw and a loss to their name so far in the Premier League. New additions Moise Kean and Alex Iwobi will surely sharpen Everton's attacking scythe as they settle into Goodison Park, while, more importantly, giving Gylfi someone other than Theo Walcott to pass to.

### Jói's ice heart cracks as Jiménez salvages late point for Wolves

Only a 97th minute penalty from Raúl Jiménez could prevent Jóhann Berg Guðmundsson's Burnley side from taking all three points against the Wolves on Sunday, after Ashley Barnes had opened the scoring early on. Gravel-voiced, worm-eating Burnley coach, Sean Dyche, decided to remove Jói from the firing line with half an hour to play and, ultimately, reaped what he sowed when the Gods duly smote him for his hubris. The draw comes after last weekend's marginal loss to Arsenal, leaving the Clarets level with Gylfi's Everton on four points. A civil war is coming.

### Snow Leopard cub commits ecocide by joining Dortmund

Blonde bombshell Kolbeinn Finsson has abandoned his mission to prevent an ecological crisis in Brentford for a hedonistic spell in North Rhine-Westphalia. The twice-capped Iceland international leaves The Bees after a year in the development side at Griffin Park, and will initially join Dortmund II. Though the move will doubtless come as a disappointment to fellow eco-Viking, Greta Thunberg, Kolbeinn's stint at the German giants can only be good news for Erik Hamrén and the national team. ☞

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Mike Pence with Twitter celebrity and politician Donald Trump

# Pence Visits From Land Of “You’re Fired” And I.C.E.

Quick! Lock up your kids before he does!

Words: **Logan Sigurðsson**  
 Photo: **Ali Shaker/VOA, CDC/ C. Goldsmith, P. Feorino, E. L. Palmer, W. R. McManus**

US Vice President and no-homo bunny lover **Mike Pence** has confirmed his visit to Iceland on September 4th—the first stop on a european mini-tour that will also take him to the **UK** and **Ireland** on behalf of President **Donald Trump**. Pence’s visit has stirred speculation that Iceland-US relations are entering a new phase. As the second high-ranking US official to visit Iceland this year (US Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** was in Reykjavík in February), theo-

ries are circulating that the visits are connected to the US’s growing investment in **Keflavík’s naval base**. The **US Department of Defense** has committed 7.1 billion ISK for military construction in 2020.

According to a **White House** statement, Pence’s visit is to “highlight Iceland’s strategic importance in the Arctic, **NATO’s** efforts to counter **Russian** aggression in the region, and opportunities to expand mutual trade

and investment.” Then, of course, are the strenuous negotiations of why anyone would ever want to meet with Mike Pence.

## No escaping Pence

Pence’s visit was initially meant to be hosted on September 3rd by Minister for Foreign Affairs **Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson**. Prime Minister **Katrín Jakobsdóttir** will be in Sweden then attending the **Council of Nordic Trade Unions** and said she hasn’t “seen any reason to change that plan.” Not taking any hints, Pence shifted his itinerary back a day to meet **Katrín** on the 4th.

Had **Katrín** not met with Pence, the snub could have been interpreted as an expression of her attitude towards the Trump administration. **Katrín’s** party, the **Left-Greens**, strongly calls for Iceland to leave **NATO**, conflicting with the stated purpose of Pence’s visit. Additionally, Pence arrives as **Denmark**, an ally of Iceland, is having a diplomatic dispute with the US. That spat arose after Danish Prime Minister **Mette Frederiksen** called Trump’s musings about the US buying **Greenland** “absurd,” prompting the president to cancel his upcoming state visit to the Nordic nation.

**Katrín** denied her planned absence on Sept. 3rd was a snub to Pence, but many party leaders in **Alþingi** expressed surprise at what would have been a “missed opportunity” to discuss important issues. “This is unprecedented for an Icelandic prime minister,” Icelandic historian **Þór Whitehead** stated before Pence’s change of travel plans. “I doubt any other Western leader would decide to address a friendly conference abroad instead of welcoming a major foreign ally.” “Welcoming” Pence, however, is

nothing short of controversial. While POTUS’ rampage of erratic tweets and scandals have occupied the spotlight, Pence’s trainwreck of a political career is just as worthy of attention.

## All aboard the Pence train: Who is he?

Before this devout Christian naturally found himself on the ballot with a pornstar enthusiast, he served as the 50th governor of **Indiana** and, later, as a member of the **House of Representatives**. In both these positions, as in the Trump Administration, Pence has spewed hateful rhetoric and pushed radical policies, most famously targeting the **LGBTQ+** community.

## An empathetic father

Pence’s anti-LGBTQ+ agenda is nearly as important to his political philosophy as Trump is to himself. For a decade, he worked to stop marriage equality in the United States, asserting that heterosexual marriages are the safest framework in which to raise children. Child safety might not be something you’d consider to be one of Pence’s prioritisations, considering his role in an administration that has put migrant children in cages, his vote to allow guns on school property, and his budget cuts to **Child Services** during his time as governor that nearly doubled the Indiana death rate for abused and neglected children.

Regarding **LGBTQ+** children, Pence has been widely connected to conversion therapy. This “therapy” attempts to “cure” children’s sexual and gender identities. It has been widely condemned by the international medical community as child abuse, yet it remains legal in most states. Children who undergo this “therapy” are five

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times more likely to attempt suicide. Pence's stance for parents' rights to choose their child's care is widely recognized as an endorsement of conversion therapy. He also advocated that funding be reallocated to conversion programs from HIV prevention programs that, per Pence, "celebrate and encourage the types of behaviors that facilitate the spreading of the HIV virus."

### A self-appointed doctor

Pence's homophobic outlook on the HIV virus opposes medical expertise, evidence, and common sense. As Indiana's governor he cut public health funding, triggering a shutdown of a **Planned Parenthood**, resulting in the state's most devastating epidemic of HIV and AIDS. Pence responded to the crisis by fighting to maintain a ban on needle exchange programs that could've alleviated the outbreak before finally conceding a year later. Afterwards, Pence still voted to federally ban needle exchanges, and called for defunding Planned Parenthood because the clinics also provide abortions. Restricting abortions and calling condoms "too modern," Pence's solution to STDs is abstinence. Naturally, he suggested that the US send sub-Saharan **Africa** "values" rather than condoms to combat their AIDS crisis. He has also been a leading voice to repeal the **Affordable Care Act**, helping those with HIV and AIDS access

lifesaving medications.

The Affordable Care Act also provided many LGBTQ+ people and their families previously denied health care. Seeing another opportunity to screw people over, Pence stepped up with his "license to discriminate." Originally a failed Indiana bill that only triggered a nationwide boycott costing over \$60 million USD, he re-introduced a federal variation into the **Religious Freedom Bill**, loopholing discrimination under religious beliefs.

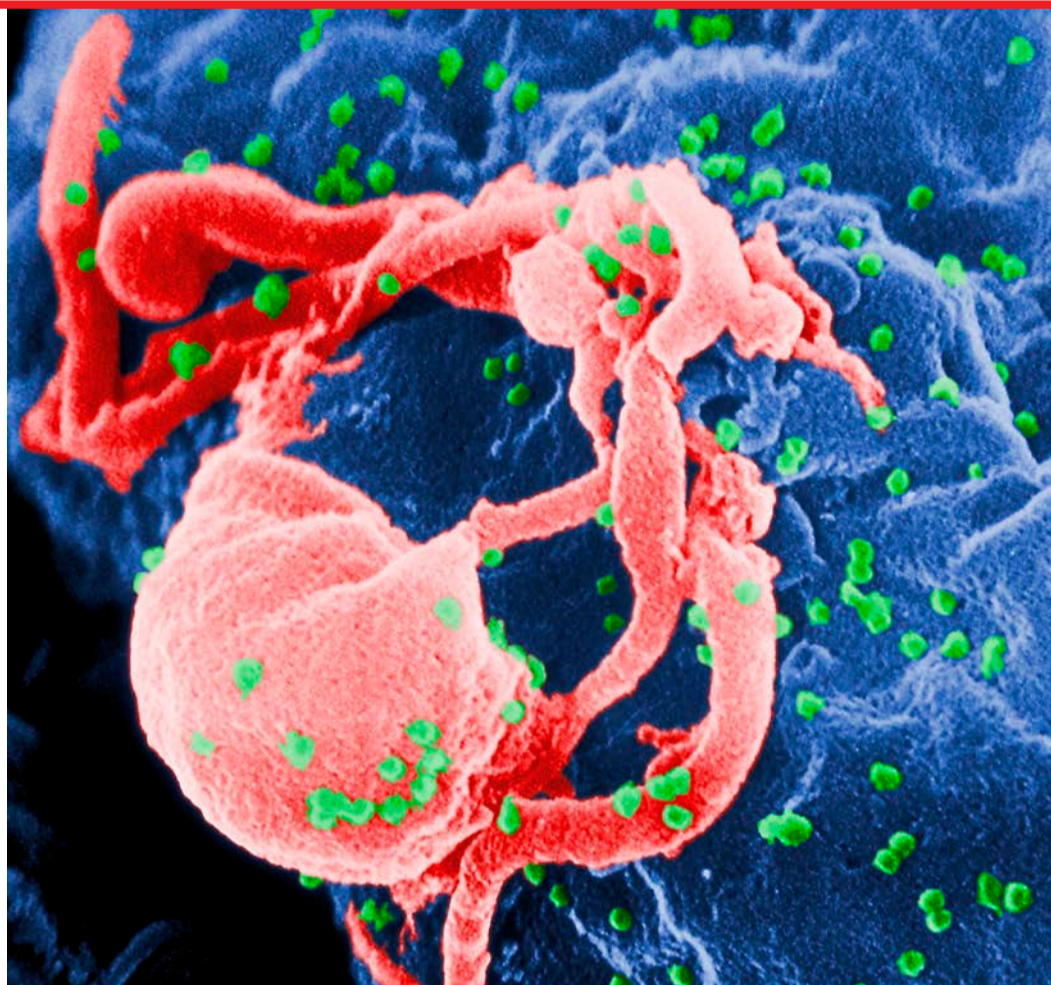
### A trauma survivor

Pence's beliefs also led him to conclude LGBTQ+ people have no place in the armed forces. He supported "**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**," barring non-heterosexual members of the military from serving openly, and lobbied for transgender people to be banned entirely. Pence also stood against women in the military, revealing he had been "victimised" by the "liberal-propaganda" **Disney** movie '**Mulan**.' As a victim himself, it's a wonder why he repeatedly blocks hate crimes laws, believing them to "serve no practical purpose." Then again, anyone who refers to their wife as "**Mother**" is an enigma.

**"Pence also stood against women in the military, carrying on to reveal he had been 'victimised' by the 'liberal-propaganda' Disney movie 'Mulan.'"**

### Welcome? Not a chance

Not nearly as mysterious is Pence's



Electron micrograph picture of HIV-1, the deadly virus that the US Vice President believes can be curtailed with "values"

unpopularity in Iceland. **Þorbjörg Þorvaldsdóttir**, head of **Samtökin 78**, the National Queer Organization, announced protests against Pence's views on LGBTQ+ people, explaining that Pence has caused queer suffering for decades, explicitly referencing Trump's notorious queer rights joke, "Don't ask this guy [Pence]—he wants to hang them all!"

Angered by his visit to Iceland, Þorbjörg writes, "Now, the Govern-

ment of Iceland intends to welcome Mike Pence, politely talk to him about business consultations and strengthen relations with the United States. All such measures are a pure disregard for the queer community in Iceland. We will not be silent on the fact that he is welcomed to this country. Not a chance."

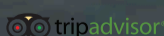
Overall the visit is expected to be a great victory for foreign relations, uniting Icelandic, British, and Irish people in their dislike of Mike Pence. 🇮🇸



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Andri Snær with the widely circulated plaque that memorialises Okjökull

# Why Iceland Held A Glacier Funeral

Andri Snær Magnason on memorializing Okjökull and the climate crisis

Words:  
a rawlings

Photos:  
Judy Natal

"I don't have ambitions to be a glacier undertaker," says **Andri Snær Magnason**, who authored the text for Ok's memorial plaque last weekend. "But I would attend future memorials if I could."

On August 18th, **Rice University** anthropologists **Cymene Howe** and **Dominic Boyer** arranged a memorial for the former **Ok** (pronounced "awk") glacier as a follow-up to their 2017 documentary 'Not Ok'. The memorial is a strategic move to foreground the impact of climate change in Iceland and globally, arguing that Ok is the first Icelandic glacier whose disappearance is directly linked to climate change.

## Emphasise the 'lac' in 'glacier'

Over one hundred people travelled to the site to the former glacier to collectively mourn. They placed a memorial plaque with Andri Snær's message for future visitors: "We know what is happening and what needs to be done. Only you know if we did it."

Andri Snær is figural in Iceland's environmental, political, and artistic scenes. He received international attention with his 2008 book 'Dreamland: Self-Help Manual for a Frightened Nation' critiquing the country's energy-harnessing practices. A decade after 'Dreamland' met readers, Andri Snær will publish his next non-fiction book, 'On Time and Water,' in Icelandic this autumn. The book interweaves grandmothers, glaciers, holy cows, and mythology in a melting world through personal stories, travelogues, and interviews.

In the context of melting glaciers and the climate crisis, Andri Snær finds that "our existence is going against future generations. That's an unbearable, existential dilemma. We're sacrificing the lives of the next generation for our own. Not even for survival but for comfort, which is probably the most absolute ethical situation that any generation has found itself in."

## 56 glaciers already gone

Out of 300 named glaciers in Iceland, the **Icelandic Meteorological Office** has collated an unpublished list of 56 glaciers that have melted as of 2017. Ok is the largest of these glaciers to disappear; its previous measurement in 2000 indicated it was 3.34 km. Ok was part of the **Langjökull** glacier group, which also includes the dead glacier formerly known as **Hlöðufellsjökull**.

The other 54 glaciers were less than 1 km in size as of 2000. 31 of these glaciers were located in north Iceland's Tröllaskagi region, while seven glaciers had expired in **Flateyjarskagi**. Six glaciers in the East Fjords have melted, as have another six in the southeast **Vatnajökull** group. Four glaciers in the **Kerlingarfjöll** highlands have also disappeared.

Coordinator of glaciological research at the Icelandic Meteorological Office **Tómas Jóhannesson** offers, "Ok is a glacier that was a landmark in Western Iceland, visible from the lowlands and settled areas. The other 50 are very small glaciers that nobody except specialists or people who do a lot of hiking in the highlands or remote areas have visited."

## Viral ice

Ok's memorial sparked an international media frenzy. **The Guardian** approached Andri Snær to write an article about how he memorialized the glacier, while **The New York Times** published an article by prime minister **Katrín Jakobsdóttir**.

"When I wrote the (memorial) text," Andri Snær recalls, "I thought I was speaking to maybe a few people a year, the people who would stumble across the mountaintop. I forgot to think about the viral news network."

## Glaciologists on speed dial

The volume of unexpected international attention caused the Icelandic Meteorological Office to develop a media brochure on climate change and Icelandic glaciers. About the attention, Tómas says, "Because of Ok, there was a flurry of questions about the importance of glacier change and how disastrous this was. We wrote a summary of the importance of glacier changes and climate changes in Iceland and how they manifest."

The focus on Iceland's glaciers and climate change spurred international journalists to write about their local climate concerns. "I saw, in different media," says Andri Snær, "they would also take their local global warming perspective into it. You feel the awareness is different from 10 years ago. This proves what art can do."

## Now we see

"On mountaintops, we have víðsjá," explains Andri Snær, "copper plates describing the horizon. I thought the memorial plaque was a kind of víðsjá, but it doesn't point to the horizon; it points to the future. Then it points from the future back to us, with awareness

that what we're doing is hopefully something people will see after 200 years."

The idea of writing a text in a country with a millennium-long literary history is not lost on Andri Snær. "Icelandic sagas were written on calfskin," he says, "and that's lasted 1,000 years. With the memorial, I wrote on something more sturdy than calfskin. So it could last even longer; this could outlast the stone it is sitting on."

## Keep the ice

The **New York Times** article by prime minister **Katrín Jakobsdóttir** appeared at the same time as the Ok memorial. In it, the prime minister concluded, "Help us keep the ice in Iceland."

**The Paris Agreement's** internationally adopted goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees this century would not fulfill her request.

According to Tómas, "if the international community succeeds in limiting climate change during this century to 1.5 degrees or less, the effect on the glaciers in Iceland will be much smaller. If climate change continues at its current pace, we expect the glaciers to be mostly gone in a couple of centuries."

Through the saga of Ok's memorial, the prime minister shared Iceland's climate-crisis approach. She wrote, "We are currently executing Iceland's first fully funded action plan, aiming at carbon neutrality by 2040 at the latest. Iceland has decarbonized energy production, and we are working toward greener transport, including by proposing a ban on the registration of cars powered by nonrenewables after 2030."

## Climate strikes

Ok's memorial was attended by children and teenagers carrying placards with climate-strike slogans. The movement has touched Andri Snær, and he explains, "Children who are in school now see within their own lifetimes, not even before they reach their 40s, something huge will be happening in the world. And they basically are not buying it."

"The climate strikes are a demand that we start fixing the system. It's basically rethinking and redesigning everything, every single aspect of our Western societies. And this goes for **China** and **Japan**, too. It goes for quite a big portion of the world."

## Future memorials

Andri Snær considers if memorializing glaciers may continue in Iceland. "I actually do think so, unless our mood will be so dreadful that we don't want

to think about what's happened. Or if things have become so urgent in the world that we are not at this stage anymore."

Last week in Iceland, the annual meeting of Nordic prime ministers included climate change on their agenda. Andri Snær and others urged action, and

insisted their conversation should go further than it did. "I want to see Nordic countries admit they've already used their share of oil to get themselves to this level of prosperity. It's the obligation of countries that were first developed to go carbon neutral and, then, carbon negative. That means not about bragging about who's best in sustainability. It doesn't matter if you're best while the world is burning. If others aren't doing anything, you have to do even more. That is something that we don't seem to be understanding." ❧

**"We're sacrificing the lives of the next generation for our own. Not even for survival but for comfort."**



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Reykjavik's beloved brunch cat battered by building blockages

# Work On Hverfisgata A Nuisance

Construction lags while businesses suffer

Words:  
Sam O'Donnell

Photo:  
Art Bicnick

The eastern stretch of **Hverfisgata** closed on May 20th and is slated to remain closed until late September while road improvements are made. The lengthy project will see the installation of new street lights, a bike path, and hot water pipes to heat the street, making it much safer year-round. While the end result is promising, business owners on Hverfisgata are feeling the consequences of the construction.

Unforeseen delays have made the process slow-going, and have been a burden to businesses on the busy street. The Managing Director of **Reykjavik Residences** recently threatened a lawsuit against the city, citing loss of revenue as a result of the delays. Restaurants on the street have been suffering—**Grái Kötturinn**, or **The Gray Cat**, has experienced a decline in customer traffic, and in early August, celebrated restaurants **Dill** and **Systur** closed.

## The challenges of business

In 2017, Dill earned Iceland's first **Michelin Star**. Last year, the same owners opened Systur in the same building. In the hospitality industry, running a restaurant is fast-paced and challenging and profit margins are often slim. With a large staff, the percentage of income going to wages may increase enormously. Faced with this difficulty, and the difficulty of being on a busy street under construction, the restaurants closed.

## One cat's perspective

Grái Kötturinn is a café located in the basement of an old building on Hverfisgata. A gray cat is painted on the glass of the front door. Bookshelves line the walls, and the smell of coffee lingers in the air. The owner of the restaurant,

**Ásmundur Helgason**, was apparently only given a few days notice before the construction began. "I read about it in the first week in April on the Morgunblaðið website. Then I tried to find more information about it on Reykjavik's homepage," he explains. To learn more, he called the city and spoke with three people who didn't know anything about any road work. He subsequently sent an email to the chairperson of the city's planning board, but when she never responded, Ásmundur assumed the notice was sent in error. In the middle of May though, he received an official notice from the city. Then, a few days later, the construction began.

**Bjarni Brynjólfsson**, speaking on behalf of the mayor of Reykjavik, expressed regret about the way the notice was handled. "We didn't inform people on the street soon enough," he said. "We could have done better."

## A comic tragedy

The result was like turning off a valve. "We are lucky enough to have tourists that have planned ahead before deciding to come to Iceland. What we are missing is the walk-in traffic," Ásmundur explains, adding that the construction began around the same time that **WOW Air** stopped flying. So there may be more than one cause for the decline

in traffic at his establishment, but the closure of Hverfisgata hasn't helped.

Ásmundur is not optimistic about the projected completion date. "I sent an email [to the mayor] when I got notice, and I got an answer on May 16. He said they would start putting asphalt on the road in mid-July." As of this printing, the road is

**"What Grái Kötturinn is missing is the walk-in traffic."**

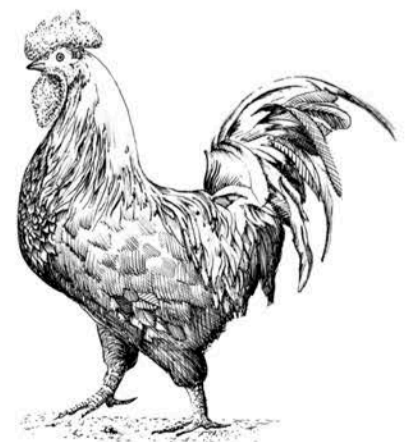
still torn up.

"Now the mayor says it's going to happen in September." Given the amount of work left and the number of people working on the road on any given day, it is hard to imagine they will finish on time.

While he is pessimistic about the end date of construction, Ásmundur is optimistic about his business. "The cat has nine lives," he laughs. "I consider this is a comical tragedy. I don't want to come off as crying, but rather laughing."

## Not a new problem

The city performed similar construction in 2013 on the western stretch of Hverfisgata, which similarly upset locals at the time. That project was completed many weeks behind schedule. However, the street wasn't as lively then as it is now, so the sense of urgency in regards to the construction was not as palpable. Regardless, the toll that road closures have on local businesses is clear, and business owners would urge City officials to take them into account. ☹



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# It's Ok To Not Be Ok

*"A sermon isn't always religious. It can be a celebration, and we are a celebration of misery and devastation."*

Une  
Misère  
will  
convert  
you with  
their  
Sermon  
of  
accept-  
ance

Words:  
**Hannah Jane Cohen**

Photos:  
**Hörður Sveinsson**



The boys of **Une Misère** are exhausted. Having just days ago returned from a 40-day tour of **Europe** and **Russia**, they're clustered around a table upstairs at **Prikið**, counting down the hours until their annual festival, **Prik-Port**, begins. But even with bags under their eyes, the band still emits a sense of exhilaration. Joking around, gulping down vegan burgers between sips of black coffee and Coke, their excitement for the release of their upcoming debut album, **'Sermon'** is infectious. Trust and believe, they emphasise: Conversion to the church of misery is imminent. Welcome to their Sermon.

## The misery family

The sextet could easily be called the supergroup of the Icelandic hardcore scene and hanging out with them is like teleporting into a parallel universe. Growing up together in the tiny hardcore community, their conversations are a tornado of inside jokes, obscure references, nods to bands of yesteryear, and gags that pile atop each other until you're left wondering what on Earth they're talking about. In the midst of the melee is caring. In between the jokes they check in on each other. They're more than a group of bandmates, or of best friends—they're a family.

And a busy family they are. 2019 has been a prolific year for the group, taking them from just local favourites and propelling them onto the international metal stage. Only months ago they were signed by **Nuclear Blast**, the **biggest metal label in the world**. (For those not acquainted with the genre, this is a massive deal.) Then, they went on tour with **Arch Enemy** and **Lamb of God**, among others. During that time, they announced the upcoming release of **'Sermon'** on November 1st, and put out the eponymous first single from the effort in late August.

## A stupid story

When asked about the formation of the band, though, each member smirks and looks at each other, as if daring one of them to reveal a dirty secret. It's bassist **Þorsteinn Gunnar Friðriks-son**, easily the quietest member of the group, who surprisingly pipes up first.

"It's a really stupid story, actually," he says, as everyone bursts out laughing. "We were just hanging out, being drunk, and we were like, 'We should start a band.'"

Vocalist **Jón Már Ásbjörnsson** jumps in, correcting him. "No we said, we should start the heaviest band ever." Jón emphasis "heavy" in a silly voice—guttural, like a drunk metalhead at **Wacken** watching **Cannibal Corpse**.

This inspires an echo of variations of "heaviest band ever," from each of the young men at the table, each more ridiculous than the last. Once they've finally quieted down, Þorsteinn continues. "We were basically in a practise space with a case of beer and it was like, ok we are starting a band, who wants to play bass?" He's quickly interrupted by guitarist **Gunnar Ingi Jones**. "Jón still owes me money for that beer, I just want to say here." Jón rolls his eyes.

"I play bass because at that moment, I called dibs on playing bass, even without owning a bass," Þorsteinn laughs. He looks to Jón. "I called being the vocalist because I had done guest vocals at two Icarus shows," Jón says with a grin.

It's drummer **Benjamin 'Benni' Bent Árnason**, the clear jokester of the band, who wraps up the tale succinctly. "Do you know those stories about guys

sitting around who said, 'We should start a band'? It's basically that. Except it actually happened."

## That was in 2016.

Once the band was formed things quickly started rolling. They put out a single, began playing local shows, and just one year later, won Iceland's **Wacken Metal Battle**, which took them to Germany's **Wacken Open Air festival** for their first international show. Fresh off their victory, they released a mixtape, '010717', and followed this up with a few music videos. Each served to raise the notoriety of the group, which quickly developed a reputation for their



raucous live shows and technical prowess. In just one year, they had become one of the most anticipated acts on the Icelandic circuit.

## 120% in it

So while the group might have started as a spur-of-the-moment drunk idea, their success quickly assuaged any reservations about the band. "Before, with all of our other bands, we had always just winged it, but this time, we decided, 'let's do this right,'" guitarist and vocalist **Fannar Már Oddsson** explains.

"We were instantly 120% in it," Gunnar adds. "We learned from all the mistakes our previous bands had made." Benni nods. "We talked a lot," he explains, jumping off Gunnar's thoughts. "At the beginning, we had more meetings than rehearsals," he says, laughing. Þorsteinn smiles. "Sometimes we forgot we were a band."

The boys took a new approach with **Une Misère**, one that went way past chords and melodies. "In our other bands, we were more focused on having fun and not necessarily being the

healthiest people," guitarist and vocalist **Finnbogi Örn Einarsson** explains. "There was mental instability. There was alcoholism. There were all these negative factors. But when **Une Misère** became a thing, everyone was trying to be the best versions of themselves. We all took steps to be better people, mentally, physically, and musically."

"We were doing this right," Fannar adds. "Being a sustainable band was so new to us that it became the most exciting part of it. It was so awesome. It became exciting. Showing up for meetings. Doing accounting. Being on time."

"Being on time," prompts each member to grin and Jón glances towards **Finnbogi**, who was, admittedly, late to the interview. "Do you see how remorseful he is?" Jón asks. Before **Finnbogi**

**"I saw the only solution being putting an end to my own life. Thankfully it didn't work."**

and used that as an escape route," he explains. "And I was pretty good at it, until I met drugs, and they were amazing for it."

He pauses, gathering his strength for what is clearly a heavy story. "I used them all the time, until I realised that I wasn't living. I wasn't feeling anything." It was at this point that he realised he had no choice but to get sober. That proved to be an almost insurmountably difficult task. "I had been feeling fake emotions and as I got sober, I started feeling my feelings again and things got worse in a big and bad way. That was super difficult, but having these guys there was so important."

Fannar pats him on the back. They were working together during these difficult times, so he got to see Jón's pain up close. "It was difficult, but it was amazing to see you get better," he says encouragingly.

Jón smiles at him. The bond between the two runs deep. "I was all over the place, but I wasn't at the edge of my cliff any longer and I didn't want to come close to the edge again. This band keeps me focused on not getting close to that cliff, and on keeping others from it."

The band gave him not only an outlet for support in his sobriety, but also a platform to talk about it. "Our first show after I got sober, it was an all ages event. I went on stage and said, 'Hey, I've been sober for this long,' and I went into tears," he explains. "I knew I wanted to say that every day because every show adds more and more [days] to it."

And Jón has kept that promise. At every **Une Misère** concert, he tells the crowd how many days he's been substance free, with the opportunity to mark a milestone presenting itself on the band's latest tour. "I went on stage and said, 'I don't know if it matters to anyone in here, but I've been sober for 1,000 days.'"

"And the crowd went nuts!" Fannar yells. Then the jokes start, each member donning stereotypical rock concert positions, headbanging and such. Jón smiles. "Yes, I've been sober for 1,000 days. Now horns up brothers!"

The vocalist acknowledges that sobriety has now become a requirement for staying in the band. "If I was still fucked, they wouldn't be doing this with me. They would be a quintet," he says. Gunnar laughs quietly. "I don't want to say it, but yes, that's probably true."

## Finnbogi's struggle

**Finnbogi's** story, meanwhile, is difficult and upsetting, and he actually asks the band for permission to share it here. All encourage him to open up, though, which, once he begins, he does with vehemence. **For those uncomfortable with stories of suicide, it's best to skip the next few paragraphs.**

"In 2016, I had a really bad year. Everything in my life got flipped upside-down and as a result I went into a deep depression." He pauses, his

## Finding a focus

As the hype around the band grew, the boys zeroed in on what would become the band's central focus: mental health.

"It's our thing," Fannar emphasises. He's deathly serious, a big departure from the joviality of the group up to now. Instantly, the rest of the group adopt similarly stoic expressions. This is what they came to talk about.

The issue of mental health is one that's intimately personal to the band. Each member has their own story of struggle and readily shares it, underlining how the **Une Misère** family helped them through it. For Jón and **Finnbogi**, the band's support was a matter of life and death.

## Jón's story

Jón's journey was one of substance abuse. "I took the route of numbing myself through alcohol and drugs. I've been into alcohol since I was 16



characteristic jocularity replaced by a solemn tone. “As a result, I saw the only solution being putting an end to my own life. Thankfully it didn’t work.”

The attempt was a wake-up call for the musician. “It made me realise that I had a deep unsolved problem. I had undiagnosed depression and anxiety that I never fucking bothered to check up on,” he explains. “But the night it happened, I met up with all of these guys and we had a conversation about it. I said, ‘Hey, I just tried to kill myself,’ and they were so supportive.”

The rest of the group nods. Each remaining silent, allowing Finnbogi to continue. “These people that I had then started this band with, they were so kind and understanding and I really think that if they hadn’t been there, who knows what could have happened?”

“We share a common ground with this stuff, and it’s really important to us to discuss it; that’s what makes this a healthier band. We write about that,” he explains. “The deep emotional torture of having a cell in your head that you can’t get out of.”

## Using the platform

“It’s sad to say, but a lot of us have lost too many friends [to suicide],” Gunnar reveals. “We lost a very good friend of ours recently and we were playing while her funeral was happening. I cried on stage. But that’s why we do it. This is our message. We are an homage to our fallen friends. Une Misère is a safe space, we want to help and we push this message. People can come up and talk to us if they need to.”

At this, Fannar’s face falls, perhaps remembering the memory of playing during a friend’s funeral. But Une Misère’s message, that of tolerance and acceptance, reaches people, Fannar emphasises. “You’ll play festivals to 10,000 people or club shows to 100 and if you can reach one fucking person in an entire room that either connects, understands, or sympathises with the things you are saying, it’s worth it.”

“One kid came up to us at a meet and greet,” Fannar recalls, his expression betraying the deep meaning behind the anecdote. “We thought no

one would show up. But this one kid shows up and he just said, ‘Everything you guys said, I was so happy to hear it. None of my friends understand what I feel.’ He talked to us and that meant the fucking world to us. We actually did something.”

Gunnar nods. “At the end of the day, that’s why we do what we do,” he says. It’s clear that none of what they are saying is just lip service for a magazine article. This is who Une Misère is.

“We want to reach out to these kids. I would drop everything to talk to some random kid who isn’t feeling good,” Gunnar continues “It’s such a big taboo subject and it pisses the fuck out of me.”

“See, we might not have a big platform but we do have a platform. We get to play in front of thousands of people and not using that time to reach out to people who aren’t feeling good...” he pauses, clearly emotional about the gravity of mental health. “Well, I wouldn’t be able to sleep at night.”

“Our mantra is **‘No Wound Too Deep,’**” Gunnar says simply. The four words adorn the banner that hangs behind them during shows. “And we take it very seriously. If anyone wants to come talk to us about anything, ever, at any time; Don’t hesitate.”

## The pinnacle of misery

‘Sermon’ exemplifies Une Misère’s ‘No Wound Too Deep’ philosophy. The highly-anticipated album, which the band describes as an undefinable mashup of different types of hardcore and metal, will be, as they emphasise, the pinnacle of Une Misère. “If you look into the meaning of the word,” Finnbogi explains, “A sermon isn’t always religious. It can be a celebration, and we are a celebration of misery and devastation.”

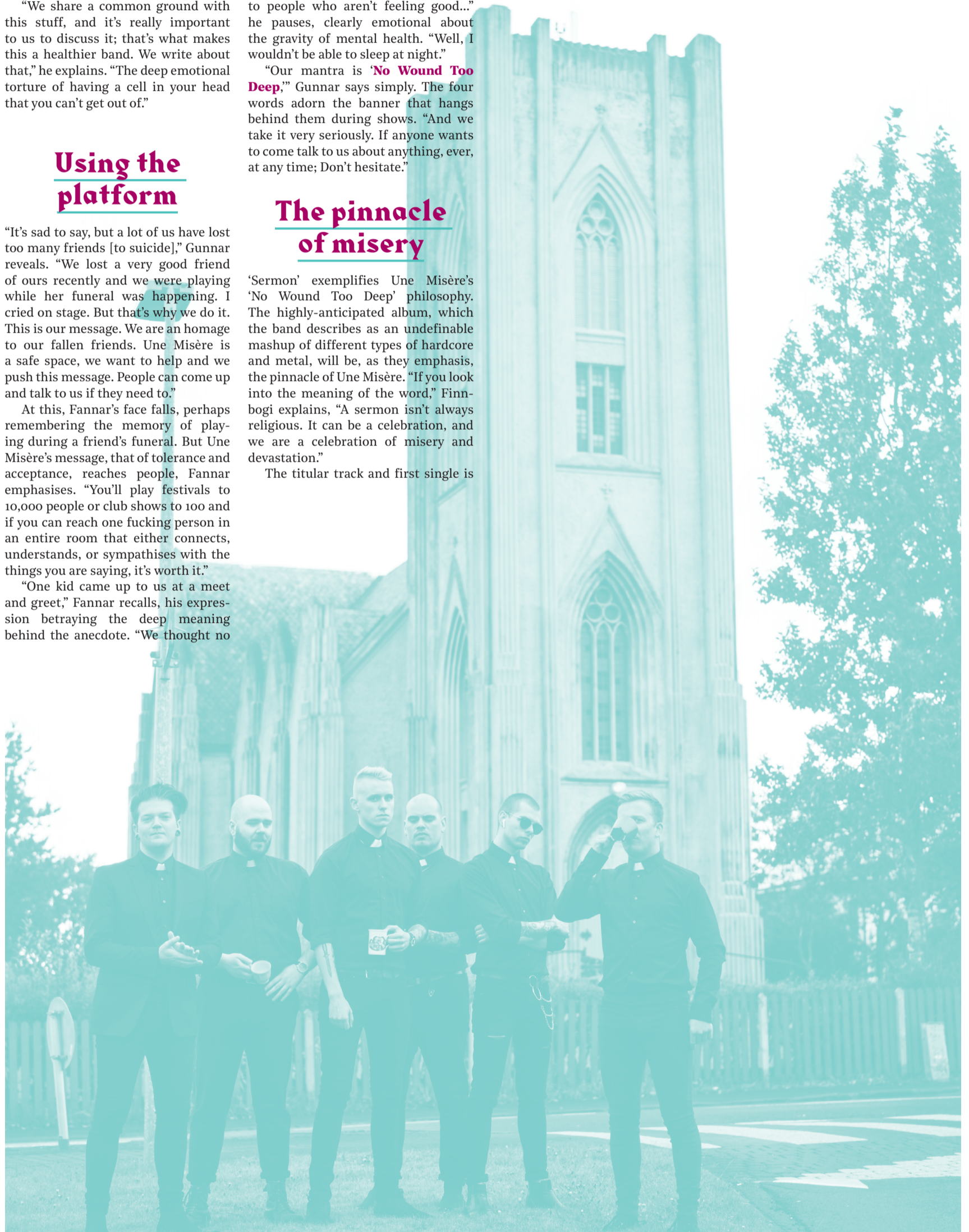
The titular track and first single is

an unrelenting, heavy, sludgy anthem that seems made to mosh along to at a festival. It’s a fight song. “Lyrically, ‘Sermon’ is about going to the end of the world to destroy yourself,” Jón explains.

But thematically, this album will dive much deeper, expanding Une Misère’s ethos that it’s ok to not be ok into a wholly realised ideology—a true sermon about sobriety, veganism, and, of course, mental illness.

“Surrendering. Being able to surrender yourself to your emotions,” Fannar says, when asked for his final thoughts on the album. “That it’s human to feel bad and you should embrace it. You’re attending a sermon of realising it’s ok to feel like shit. It’s poetic in a way. And it goes back to the name of the band.” He smiles. “It’s a fucking misery.”

**“Our mantra is ‘No Wound Too Deep,’ and we take it very seriously.”**





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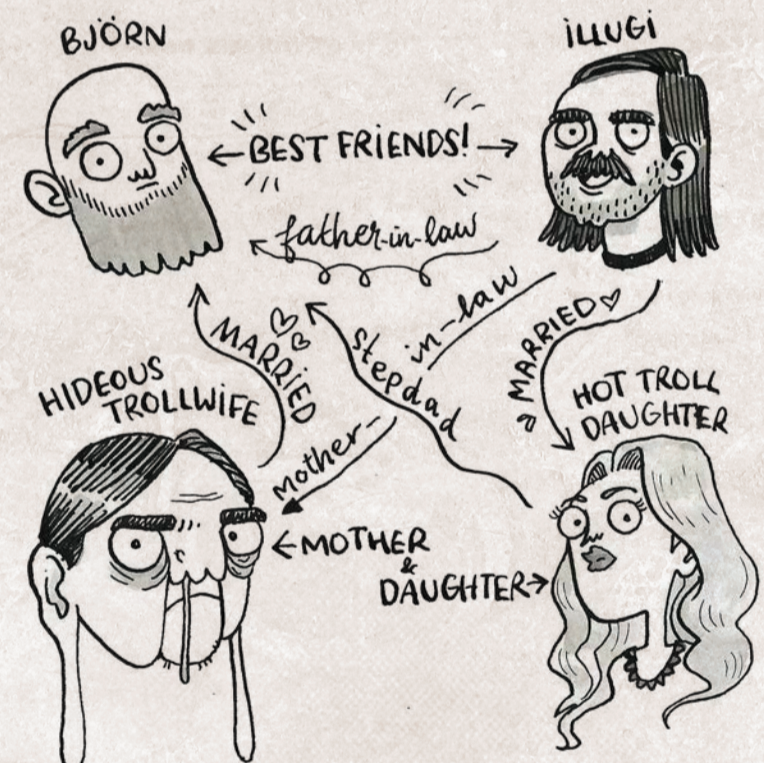
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## Fenrir Is The G.O.A.T.

The Sagas & Shit

August 30th - 17:00 - Penninn Eymundsson - Free!

The Sagas and Shit is about to hit the fan. Get your ass to Eymundsson on Austurstræti by 17:00 this Friday to see author Grayson Del Faro read some of the funniest and most depraved sagas from his new book. Grapevine readers know these stories, of course, for it's a best of recap from our archives. So we will actually be there too, drinking away. Come listen, laugh, and let him write a little note in your copy of the book. Or just fake it for a free beer. VG



## The Legacy Of Germany

Októberfest SHÍ

September 5th - 20:00 - Háskóli Íslands - 4,990-8,900 ISK

You want to have a beer with a bunch of university students? Well, Októberfest SHÍ is exactly what you need. The annual festival is all about beer and music, and is based on the famous German beerfest. But instead of listening to German folk music, they have badass line up featuring the likes of Herra Hnetusmjör, Kef Lavík and Vök. So put on that lederhosen your been saving in the closet (we now you have a pair), and go nuts. VG



## Big Hairy Homosexuals

Bears On Ice

August 29th-September 1st - Reykjavík - 47,500 ISK

According to Wikipedia, "In male gay culture, a bear is often a larger, hairier man who projects an image of rugged masculinity." If this is you, or what you are into, you're in for a treat. The Bears On Ice three-day bonanza festival has everything: Cocktails, Day-trips, big hairy men, "Golden Circles," a "Top-off" party, goodie bags, the hottest Bear DJ, DJ Ginger-Bear, alongside Bjartmar, Bistro Boy and more. Bring a towel. HJC

## CULTURE NEWS

## Festival

September 12th-15th. Festival passes are 9,900 ISK



Pan Thorarensen, the fated organiser

# A Decade of Extreme Chill

A festival of experimental music, international connections, and family

Words: Logan Sigurðsson

Photo: Art Bicnick

The Icelandic experimental music festival, **Extreme Chill**, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Located in **Reykjavík**, the Electronic Music Capital of Iceland, the festival will this year take place at **Gamla Bíó, Iðnó, Gaukurinn, Mengi, Exeter Hotel, Vínyl Bistro** and **Klaustur Bar** over the weekend of September 12th to 15th. This is the second year the festival has been spread across multiple venues. "They're different venues all with different atmospheres," explains organiser **Pan Thorarensen** of band **Stereo Hypnosis**. "It's quite special, and you don't

have to run to see something."

## The traveling festival

The goal of the festival is to connect musicians from Iceland and abroad with their various art forms, spanning from electronic music to visual arts, while drawing specific attention to electronic music and its local scene in Iceland. "It's a family thing,"

"I say it every year, but I think this is the best line-up we've ever had."

Pan emphasises. "It's just better when you know each other and have trust, I think".

Extreme Chill is one of Iceland's longest running festivals and has been, in the past, hosted in many locations. "It's sort of a travelling music festival," Pan laughs. Beginning in **Snæfellsnes**, the festival has also been held in **Hellissandur, Vík**, and even abroad in **Berlin**. Always raising the bar higher every year, the 2019 festival is expected to be one of the largest yet. "I say it every year, but I think this is the best line-up we've ever had," Pan boasts.

The line-up includes a mix of Icelandic and foreign artists covering a variety of work spanning from classical to experimental. Headlining the festival will be German electronic icon, **Tangerine Dream**, among other talents are **Marcus Fischer, Eraldo Bernocchi, Kristin Anna, Stereo Hypnosis, Mixmaster Morris, Hotel Neon, Jana Irmert, Christopher James Chaplin, Pharaoh, Special-K, Hoshiko Yamané, Mikael Lind**, and more.

## Mystifying journeys

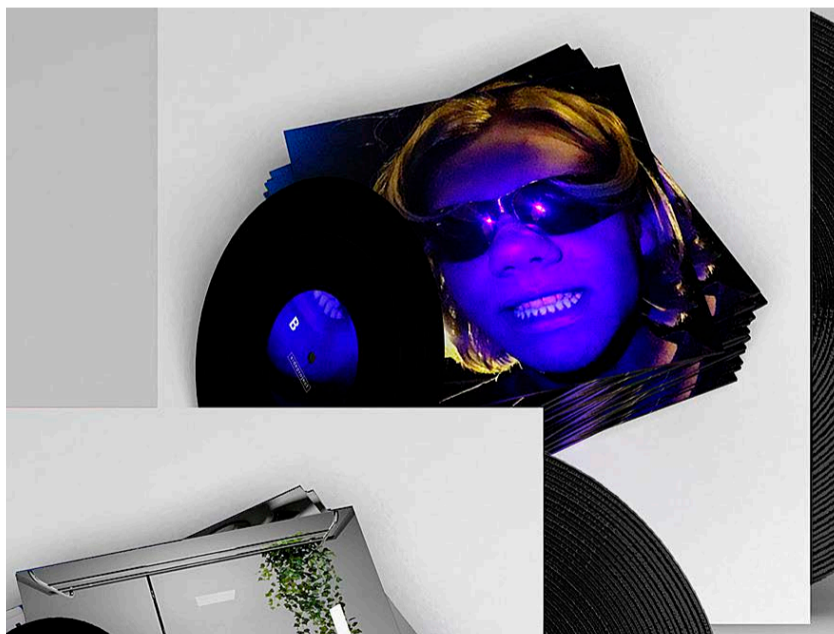
The Extreme Chill website promotes the festival as, "a mystifying journey around electric Reykjavík," and inspired by "Icelandic nature." The festival has helped formulate multiple releases and concerts, and built relations between Icelandic and foreign musicians, allowing for creative collaborations. When

asked what made his festival different from others, Pan says that Extreme Chill is, "like a big family. My family is promoting it—my father, girlfriend and close friends—it's our baby. Music is our lives," he says. "While some other festivals do it for the money or for some big party, for us it's an art piece." ☘

## ELECTRIC DREAMS

## Music

Listen to Sideproject's debut double-album 'sandinista release party / ætla fara godmode for sale' on Spotify



# Making It Danceable

Diving into the interesting world of up-and-coming rave-trio Sideproject

Sideproject is an up-and-coming Icelandic trio comprised of Atli Finnsson, Hjálmar Karlsson and Örylgur Steinar Arnaldsson, that has fast become known for their ravey tunes and powerful experimental live-performances. They just released their debut album last month so the Grapevine set out to explore into their electric minds.

GV: How important is electronic music to you and what does it mean to you?  
HK: I think we all have a big punk aesthetic and are drawn to the fact that you can easily make something that sounds pretty good with nothing but a laptop.  
AF: But we also really like all the technical elements of making music. We

Words: Alexander Le Sage de Fontenay

Photo: Atli Finnsson

are all really a little bit too much into sounds and learning how sounds are made and spend a lot of time reading up on synthesis.

ÖSA: Just a bunch of nerds really.  
GV: How important is it for you to perform your music live? Why?  
AF: We love dancing and meeting people through music so performing is really important to us. I personally feel most at home when performing.

HK: We strive to make something we would want to dance to ourselves, or hear in a really big soundsystem.  
GV: Did Reykjavík's dance culture inspire you to make your music?

HK: The project kind of started with us trying to emulate mostly 90's dance music we liked so we were definitely influenced by club culture, just nothing we had experienced ourselves. But the lack of clubs in Reykjavík seems to be sparking a little underground scene around dance music and we really hope that takes off.

GV: What's on Sideproject's agenda?  
HK: Currently just playing more gigs and getting our debut album 'sandinista release party / ætla fara godmode' into people's hands on CD. We might throw a little release party for that.

ÖSA: We also have a small passion project in the works where we want to make a compilation of footwork inspired tracks by our friends. ☘





Film

'A White, White Day' premieres in Iceland on the 6th of September.

There's nothing more heartwarming than a grandpa and his granddaughter

# Film As Composition

Hlynur Pálmason's 'A White, White Day' illuminates the somber complexity of love, loss, grief and doubt

Words: Tara Njála Ingvarsdóttir

Photos: Still from movie, Portrait by Hildur Ýr Ómarsdóttir

'A White, White Day' is travelling the world, picking up heat after its premiere at the International Critics Week at Cannes, and it is clear Hlynur Pálmason is creating visually stunning, soul-wrenchingly cathartic narratives. The director spoke with us about the importance of time as a medium in filmmaking, his working relationships and his future plans, revealing insight into how he creates such emotionally churning, and sincere films.

Hlynur's works stem from his own explorations of basic human emotions and feelings. "From there the stories find themselves," he says. "If I went into making a film with a preconceived statement I would feel like I'd already let the film down in some way, or just ruined it."

"I don't make any statements; I'm not that fond of them."

### Working across mediums

Hlynur works across mediums, with moving images, sounds, paintings and sculpture. For him, these are all parallel processes. "One of the things that excites me about this relationship is that a photograph can trigger a story or a storyline that builds into a film," he shares. "Or you can be working on a film and it triggers something in your painting. I tend to think of my films as compositions."

### Time does not heal all wounds

"Filmmaking and this film are very much about rhythm and time," Hlynur continues. "Oil can be said to be the medium of painting. Time is the medium of filmmaking."

Through the cinematography of the films prologue, Hlynur wanted to convey "the experience of time passing"—from the death of the protagonist's wife, to when the story begins, and through stunning landscape film portraits of the run down-house that Ingimundur is fixing up for his daughter and granddaughter. The montage becomes an introduction to the landscape, the character of the weather, and a glimpse at how time passes for the living after death.

Time plays a big role in the heart-wrenching narrative. "People tend to

say that time heals all wounds, but I don't believe that's always the case, and that's not the case for Ingimundur," Hlynur says. "He is not healing; he is an open wound, left behind with feelings of sorrow, anger, grief and doubt."

### Pure, Unspoiled Love

Ingvar E. Sigurðsson, who plays Ingimundur, won best performance accolades at La Semaine de la Critique at Cannes and at the Transylvania Film Festival. Hlynur and Ingvar have formed a special working relationship, he acted in Hlynur's short film 'En Maler' (2013) and the role of Ingimundur was written with Ingvar in mind. Hlynur shares, "Ingvar is such a completely unique, warm and beautiful human being. He's a very physical actor, but also extremely emotionally present." During the readings and filming he says, "It's like we are just following the film and doing what the film wants us to. It's also so enjoyable, we don't

"Oil can be said to be the medium of painting. Time is the medium of filmmaking."

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want it to end.”

Alongside Ingvar, Hlynur’s daughter, Ída Mekkín Hlynsdóttir, was cast in a supporting role, delivering a stunning performance as Ingimundur’s granddaughter, Salka. Their relationship in the film displays an unconditional love that cannot be shaken by the dark adult world, and is a relief in-between Ingimundur’s brutal coming to terms with reality.

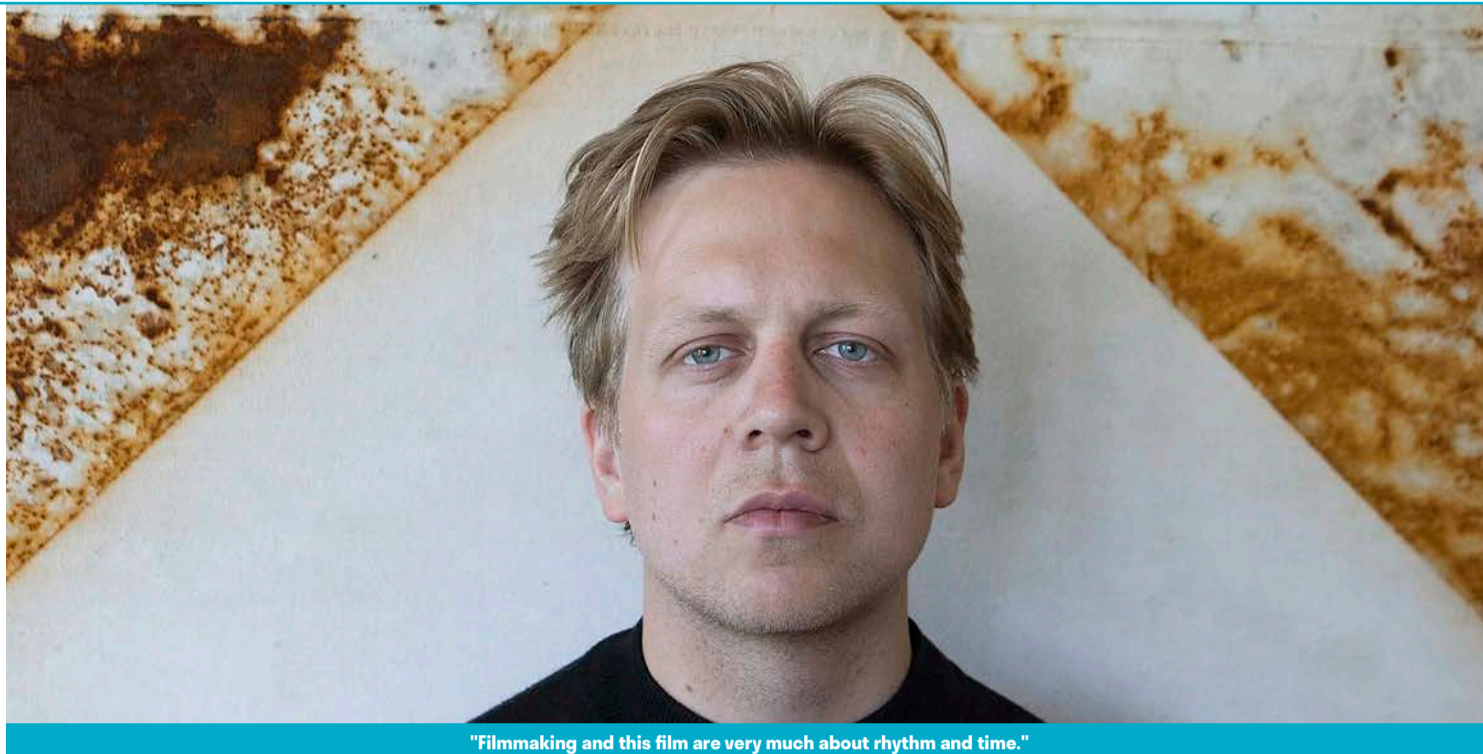
“When they were together I wanted it to feel effortless and nice, that we would enjoy their company” Hlynur explains. “His granddaughter is the apple of his eye and she is one of the things that keeps him sane. You can feel so much humanity from children, they are so pure and unspoiled.”

On working with his daughter, Hlynur shares, “I feel like I’ve been working with her ever since she was born. Ída has been in many of my video works, photography series and paintings, she’s very used to the camera and playing around.” Adding, “All my children and my wife, are very much apart of my process and my work. It’s a way of having fun and communicating.”

### Life rooted

The film was shot and based in Höfn, where Hlynur grew up and where he confides that most of his memories were made. “Höfn is very close to my heart and roots.”

“My films tend to become this strange blend of the past, present and future,” Hlynur explains, reflecting on how his formative experiences in Höfn helped to shape his film. “The past being my roots and memories from where I come from. The present being the way I see and hear things at the moment and my temperament. The future being my ambition, desires and fears.”



“Filmmaking and this film are very much about rhythm and time.”

### Future is bright

Hlynur and his family decided to move back to Höfn after having lived in Denmark for 10-12 years and are actually renting the house from the film from the town. “I got permission to put my own money into it and change it, use it as a location and change it into a livable house.” He has big plans for the location. “In the near future the idea is to put up a filmmakers artist residency.”

“When you’re making a film you think about it and work on it for some years. You begin writing, developing, financing. You film it for a year, you edit and then it’s finished,” The director shares. “The last steps of the process are so fragile, the film has been

with you for long it becomes this extremely important part of your life, until you have to say goodbye.” His dream is to create a space where those last steps can be enjoyed. He says excitedly, “A place where you can have peace and quiet to really focus and finish your work.”

‘A White, White Day’ certainly cements Hlynur Pálsson as one of Iceland’s most exciting filmmakers and celebrates the intricate relationship between the visual arts and filmmaking. His next big feature is a period film set in 1870, which follows a young ambitious Danish priest who sails to Iceland to build a church. It will also feature Ingvar Sigurðson. ♡

“My films tend to become this strange blend of the past, present and future. The past being my roots and memories from where I come from.”

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## Crack Open A Cold One

The best places for some brews with the boys

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Josie Gaitens Photos: Art Bicnick

Legend has it that a new era of lager has dawned on the city. Here's where to celebrate.

### BrewDog

Frakkastígur 8



A Scottish import, BrewDog have become one of the larger players in the craft beer world. While they can't quite hold claim to their moralistic credentials of their early days, they still make decent beer, decent food and really decent bars. Serving up an ever-changing

range of both their own and others' indie brews, BrewDog is a great place to hang out and get a taste of what is up-and-coming. They also do great wings.

### Skúli Craft Bar

Aðalstræti 9



If it's sunny and you're looking for some brews, grab a table outside at Skúli and people-watch while you explore an intricate, eclectic IPA. Their happy hour is notoriously steller, with beers at 900 ISK from

12:00 to 19:00. The bar is, admittedly, a bit ritzier than other options on the list, but hey, who said beer couldn't be fancy?

### Session Craft Bar

Bankastræti 14



Session serves up what is probably the best view for a beer-bar in the city—one that looks out directly onto the bustle of Bankastræti. On draft, they've got 16 brews to try, from tried and tested faves

like Mikkeller & Friends to eclectic Icelandic micro-brews, exotic oddities like a piña colada beer, and their signature Session range.

### Bryggjan Brugghús

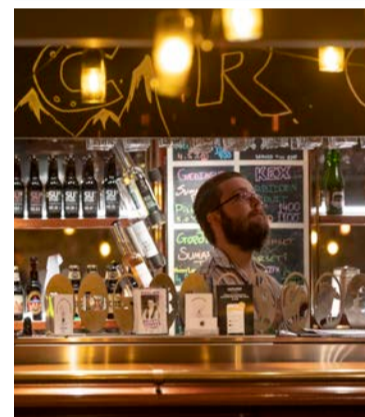
Grandagarður 8



Bryggjan Brugghús was one of the first independent microbreweries in Iceland and still brews on site at their Grandi HQ. Located next to the old harbour, the bar is dimly-lit in a cosy, enticing way, allowing customers to cosy up into a corner with a delicious pint. Bryggjan is also notable for their brewery tours and live events, including regular jazz performances on Sundays.

### MicroBar

Vesturgata 2



For those who want to remain incognito as they appreciate their hops, MicroBar is the go-to. The cosy, hidden cellar—full of mismatched chairs and rickety tables—is off the beaten path, which is sometimes exactly what you need when you want to drink expensive beers that you know you shouldn't be drinking in the first place. But don't worry—their bartenders always look like they can keep a secret.

### Beljandi Bar

Mathöll Höfða



The arrival of this lauded East Iceland craft brewery to Reykjavík was a cause for celebration among grog-lovers everywhere, heralding a new age of ale in the city. The bar is located in 110, which is, admittedly, a trek away from the downtown scene, but with a spread of the entire range of Beljandi's sought-after beers, it's a trek worth taking.



BEST OF REYKJAVÍK

## Best Places To Date

Winner:

### Hlemmur Mathöll

Laugavegur 107

Iceland's first food hall is great for dates. There are plenty of people buzzing around, giving it a relaxed, social feeling, and there are plenty of options — you can get some wine at Kröst, pick up some spicy tacos if you're unafraid of salsa mishaps, or have a cocktail or a natural wine from SKÁL. "You're in public without feeling like you're being watched by everyone," said the panel. "And if you do see people you know, it's informal enough that they won't start texting everyone gossip in five minutes flat."



Runners up:

### Port 9

Veghúsastígur 9

Our drinking panel sang the praises of tucked away wine bar Port 9, which also wins the Best Wine Bar award. It can be a bit loud and crowded at peak hours, but if you're there on a weeknight it's "a cosy, intimate, secret-feeling place to have a glass of wine and a conversation, hidden away from everyone."



### Spánski

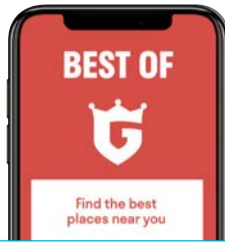
Ingólfsstræti 8

"I like to go somewhere I don't go usually," was a common refrain among our panellists. "You don't wanna run into everyone you know when you're trying to have a date." With this as a date place key criteria, basement wine bar Spánski is perfect. "There's no chance you'll see anyone you know there, you can always get a seat, and they have tapas and nice Spanish wine."



August 30th—September 12th

# In Your Pocket



Reykjavík Map

Places We Like

Best Of Reykjavík

## Perfect Day

A face of the downtown scene tells us how to spend a perfect day in Reykjavík



Words: **Gala Noir**  
Photo: **Monika Konarzewska**

### Gala Noir

Hi baby. Here to learn about my perfect day? Oh darling, I have to disappoint because perfection is one of the things that teases me the most. Open your eyes to the risk of spending the day together. I am sure that, in the end, we will find our own messy definition of perfection.

### Morning

The sun blinds me as I try to collect the thoughts that have gone off in a million directions over the course of the night. Ah! Our coffee is ready. Do you want to join me on the balcony to contemplate our dreams in the warmth of the sun? Of course! Just grab my green smoothie and cigarettes. Now, we have everything we need.

### Mid-morning

Let me put on a dress and favourite pair of high heels for my

Reykjavík Vintage Walk. We start at Hlemmur. While we are here, let's grab a **chai latte at Te & Kaffi**. First, we head to **Fatamarkaðurinn**—they have amazing vintage stuff. The **Icelandic Red Cross** is nearby and we'll check it out as well. Afterwards, we'll take a walk along Laugavegur to **Spútnik**.

### Lunch

It's already lunch time! **GIÓ** has amazing healthy food. I am feeling the delicious spinach lasagne and beetroot juice. Yaaaaas!

### Afternoon

There are two last but definitely not least vintage shops. **Gyllti Kötturinn** is my favourite. New pair of leather gloves? Now you know where to find them! Our last spot is **Hertex**. While the sun is still up, let's not waste the beautiful weather and have some coffee and creme brûlée! I am sorry, my darling, but

I am going to ignore you for a moment. Afternoon coffee at **Café Paris** is where Salvador Dali and I have a conversation. In his diaries, I find weirdness so similar to mine.

### Evening

**Bió Paradís** is always good when I want to hide in the world of creation. I usually go there on my own, but you can join me. Tonight, they are playing a Polish movie called **'Cold War'**.

### In the heat of the night

It was such a good movie! We need to celebrate love and wash off all romantic expectations with a shot of sambuca at **Kiki Queer Bar**! We blend into a group of strangers, close our eyes and let the beats fill our bodies. Did you ask how this night will end? My darling, something is telling me that it depends only on us. ☺

## Vital Info



### Useful Numbers

Emergency: 112  
On-call doctors: 1770  
Dental emergency: 575 0505  
Taxi: Hreyfill: 588 5522 - BSR: 561 0000

### Post Office

The downtown post office has moved to Hagatorgi 1, open Mon-Fri, 09:00–17:00.

### Pharmacies

Lyf og heilsa, Egilsgata 3, tel: 563 1020  
Lyfja, Laugavegur 16, tel: 552 4045  
and Lágmúli 5, tel: 533 2300

### Opening Hours - Bars & Clubs

Bars can stay open until 01:00 on weekdays and 04:30 on weekends.

### Opening Hours - Shops & Banks

Most shops: Mon-Fri 10-18, Sat 10-16, Sun closed. Banks: Mon-Fri 09-16

### Swimming Pools

Sundhöllin, the downtown pool at Barónsstígur, is an indoor swimming pool with hot tubs and a diving board. More pools: [gpv.is/swim](http://gpv.is/swim)  
Open: Mon-Thu from 06:30-22. Fri from 06:30-20. Sat from 08-16. Sun from 10-18.

### Public Toilets

Public toilets in the centre can be found inside the green-poster covered towers located at Hlemmur, Ingólfstorg, by Hallgrímskirkja, by Reykjavík Art Museum, Lækjargata and by Eymundsson on Skólavörðustígur. Toilets can also be found inside the Reykjavík City Hall and the Reykjavík Library.

### Public Transport

Most buses run every 20-30 minutes  
Fare: 460 ISK adults, 220 ISK children.  
Buses run from 07-24:00, and 10-04:30 on weekends. More info: [www.bus.is](http://www.bus.is).



## THE ICELANDIC PENIS MUSEUM

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No pornography or offensive material in the museum.

## Venue Finder

### Venues

The numbers on the right (i.e. E4) tell you position on the map on the next page

Austur Austurstræti 7	D3	lónó Vonarstræti 3	E3
American Bar Austurstræti 8	D3	Kex Hostel Skúlagata 28	E7
Andrými Bergþorugata 20	G6	Kaffibarinn Bergstaðastræti 1	E4
B5 Bankastræti 5	E4	Kaffi Vinyl Hverfisgata 76	E6
Bar Ananas Klappartígur 28	E5	Kiki Queer Bar Laugavegur 22	E5
Bió Paradís Hverfisgata 54	E5	Loft Bankastræti 7	E4
Bjarni Fel Austurstræti 20	E4	Mengi Öðinsgata 2	F5
Bravó Laugavegur 22	E5	Nordic House Sturlagata 5	H2
Boston Laugavegur 28b	E5	Paloma Naustin	D3
Dillon Laugavegur 30	E5	Prikjö Bankastræti 12	E4
Dubliner Naustin 1-3	D3	R6013 Ingólfstræti 20	E4
English Pub Austurstræti 12	D3	Reykjavík Roasters Kárástígur 1	F5
Gaukurinn Tryggvagata 22	D3	Stofan Café Vesturgata 3	D3
Hard Rock Café Lækjargata 2a	D3	Ölsmjáan Lækjargata 10	E3
Hressó Austurstræti 20	D3	Tívoli bar Hafnarstræti 4	D3
Húrra Naustin	D3	Tjarnarbió Tjarnargata 12	E3
ART67 Laugavegur 67	F7	ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjugata 41	G6
ASÍ Art Gallery Freyjugata 41	G6	Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	B1
Aurora Reykjavík Grandagarður 2	B1	Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4
Asgrímur Jónsson Museum Bergstaðastr. 74	G4	Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16	E5
Berg Contemporary Klappartígur 16	E5	The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5
The Culture House Hverfisgata 15	E5	The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgröta	G5
The Einar Jónsson Museum Eiríksgröta	G5	Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b	F4
Ekkisens Bergstaðast. 25b	F4	Galleri List Skiphóll 50A	H10
Galleri List Skiphóll 50A	H10	Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220	D3
Hafnarborg Strandgata 34, 220	D3	Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5	D4
Hitt Húsið Pósthússtræti 3-5	D4	Hverfissgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4
Hverfissgalleri Hverfisgata 4	D4	i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3
i8 Gallery Tryggvagata 16	D3		

### Museums & Galleries

The Penis Museum Laugavegur 116	F8	Ásmundarsafn Sigtún	Open daily 10-17
Kirsuberjatræð Vesturgata 4	D3	Reykjavík City Library Tryggvagata 15	D3
Kling & Bang Grandagarður 20	A4	Árbæjarsafn Kistuhyllur 4	Open daily 9-18
Listastofan Hringbraut 119	A4	The Settlement Exhibition Aðalstræti 16	D3
Living Art Museum Gránadarður 20	A4	Reykjavík Museum of Photography Tryggvagata 15	D3
Mokka Kaffi Skólavörðustíg. 3A	E5	Saga Museum Grandagarður 2	B2
The National Gallery of Iceland Frikirkjuvegur 7	F3	Sigurjón Ólafsson Museum Laugarnestangi 70	Open Tu-Sun 14-17
The National Museum Sudurgata 41	G2	SÍM Hafnarstræti 16	D3
The Nordic House Sturlugata 5	H2	Tveir Hrafnar Baldursgata 12	G4
Hafnarhús Tryggvagata 17	D3	Wind & Weather Window Gallery Hverfisgata 37	E5
Kjarvalsstaðir Flókagata 24	H8		



**A**



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**D**



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# The Map

Get the bigger, more detailed version of The Reykjavik Grapevine City Map at your nearest hotel or guesthouse, with selections from our Best-Of awards, vital info, downtown bus stops and a wider view of the city.

## Dining

### 1. Fjallkonan

Hafnarstræti 1-3

Named after the female personification of Iceland, Fjallkonan is located smack-bang in the middle of downtown, and caters to locals and tourists alike. For the Icelandic-cuisine-curious, there is a platter of whale, lamb and puffin, all presented beautifully. For those who are just looking for a great selection of fresh meat, fish and vegetarian options, Fjallkonan does these to perfection as well.

### 2. Block Burger

Skólavörðustígur 8

Block Burger is an office favourite. You can see their white paper to-go bags stacked on writers' desks. Modelled heavily on the American chain Shake Shack in presentation, Block is reasonably priced (for Reykjavik) and has quick service. It's a lunchtime spot worth checking out.

### 3. Matur og Drykkur

Grandagarður 2

In how many ways can we say, "eat here"? Is it the whole cod head you should get, or perhaps the double-smoked dried lamb, or the creamy halibut soup? Whatever you get, rest assured it'll have roots in Icelandic culinary history, elevated to fine dining standards. And do not leave without trying the fried-to-order kleinur.

### 4. Sandholt

Laugavegur 36

Well-known for its sourdough bread, Sandholt has consistently delivered great baked goods since its inception. The laminated pastries are hands down the best in Iceland; try the buttery croissants or seasonal Danish pastries, locally known as "vinarbrauð" with rhubarb and raspberries, or the classic, vanilla custard.

### 5. Le Kock 2.0

Tryggvagata 14

In the ground floor of a new hotel, it's a large space with three components: the Le Kock diner serving burgers, fish and chips, and comfort food favourites; a cocktail bar called Tail; and a second branch of Deig, Le Kock's sister bakery. The music policy can be shaky—unless you like Status Quo—but the all-day happy hour has 1,500 ISK cocktails and 800 ISK beers.

### 6. Ramen Momo

Tryggvagata 16

Iceland's first Ramen bar has upped their broth game with a silky slick Tonkotsu. They have a choice of noodles and broths catering to food intolerances and fads, and a popular 'Ramen of the Month'. We suggest getting the Ramen Tonkotsu with their perfectly cooked soy cured eggs.

### 7. Public House Gastropub

Laugavegur 28

What happens when Icelandic ingredients are tended to with Japanese flair? Public House Gastropub only gives out-of-the-ordinary, satisfying answers. The duck thigh in a pancake served with ginger sauce and the crispy shrimp dumplings with sriracha mayo are to die for. Come early and enjoy happy hour while you can: you'll never want to leave.

### 8. Messinn

Lækjargata 6b

Messinn may be modelled on the well-known Westfjords restaurant Tjoruhúsið, but it's now no doubt a Reykjavik restaurant of choice. What keeps us coming back is how the food keeps getting better every time we dine there. Our favourites include their savoury plockfiskur, velvety graflax, and a perfectly seared trout with honey and almonds.

### 9. Sea Baron

Geirsgata 4a

Some say the langoustine soup recipe has changed a little since the eponymous "Sea Baron" himself passed away, but this harbour-side diner is as popular as ever anyway. Get a warming cup of soup, and a melt-in-the-mouth fresh fish kebab, still smoky from the coals.

### 10. Pylsuhúsið

Ingólfstorg

One of the many post-jam options in town for those looking to put a tasty end to a fun night out, the Hot Dog House is a solid place for a quick snack. If you feel too inebriated by life to experiment, a classic one "with everything" will do the trick.

## Drinking

### 11. Curious

Hafnarstræti 4

Watch out, henny—there's a new

queer bar on the scene, and it's decked out in tropical apparel. Serving up cocktails, coffee and—starting in August—a vegan café, Curious is a one-stop-shop for whatever scene you belong to. Werk.

### 12. Bravó

Laugavegur 22

Oh, bravo, Bravó, for having the best happy hour in this fair city. With its colourful fairy lights and a plethora of comfortable pillows, Bravó feels like a children's bedroom tent for adults. If you get lucky and grab a table, or even just a single seat, then it's the happiest place on earth.

### 13. Loft Hostel

Bankastræti 7a

Loft stands many heads and shoulders above most of the al fresco drinking spots in Reykjavik, not least because it's on the roof of the Loft Hostel and has a balcony that looks over downtown. Before the evening-time entertainment begins, it's the perfect place to catch some late-afternoon sun.

### 14. Kaffibarinn

Bergstaðastræti 1

With a saloon-like atmosphere in the daytime, when dogs and kids run around amongst the diehard local crowd and groups of confused tourists, Kaffibarinn turns into an all-out party during the small hours of the weekend. Whether you're holiday day-drinking or getting messy, it never fails to amuse.

### 15. Gaukurinn

Tryggvagata 22

If you prefer your music grungy, raw and weird, then Gaukurinn is your place. With dim lights, leather sofas and a gender neutral bathroom, it's become the perfect hangout for the unorthodox Reykjavíkingar, so if you're looking for like-minded peeps to drink with, here you go.

### 16. Session Bar

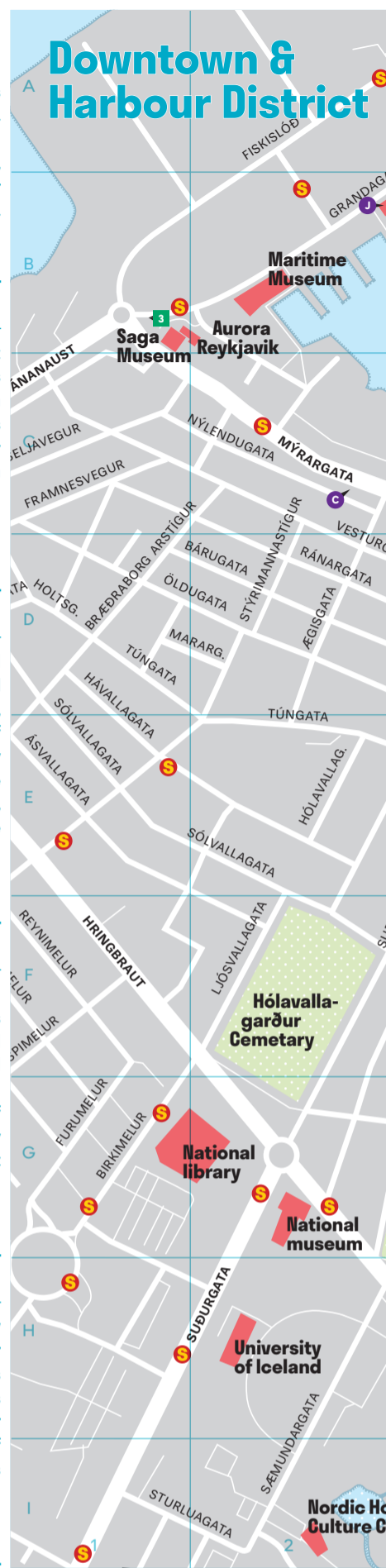
Fógetagarður

Session Bar is a minimalist craft-beer-focused drinking den housed in a former hair salon in the heart of downtown. There are sixteen beers on tap, both Icelandic and international, and they have a focus on keeping the prices affordable, in contrast to Reykjavik's generally pricey craft bar.

### 17. Papaku Reykjavik

Klappastígur 38

Formerly Bar Ananas, Papaku Reykjavik is Reykjavik's only beach bar, and it is truly a breath of fresh air for the otherwise dreary downtown scene. No sir, this is no dive bar, but a club, with a pool table, piano, darts board, a spacious bar, a tiny dance floor, and a solid line of DJs that all aim to make you bust a move.



### 18. American Bar

Austurstræti 8

Football fans will rejoice in seeing the row of screens perennially tuned on sports channel above the bar, while troubadours aficionados will find in American Bar a great spot to listen to classic country music. Grab a rib from the adjacent Dirty Burgers & Ribs and be happy.

## Shopping

### 19. Kvartýra №49

Laugavegur 49

This minimalistic, Bauhaus-esque spot took the Icelandic fashion

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**J**

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Reykjavik Art Museum

Harpa Concert Hall

The Culture House

National Theatre

Austurvöllur

Icelandic Parliament

City Hall

National Gallery

Hljóm-skálagarður Park

Hallgrímskirkja Church

Lista-safn Einarssonar

Landspítali Hospital

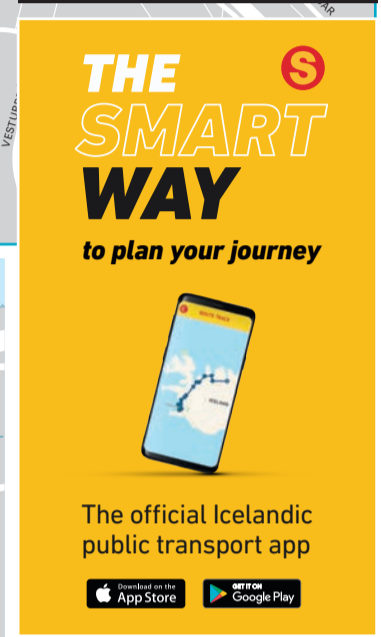
Bio Paradis

Hlemmur Food Hall

**S**

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**New In Town**



**Chatime**  
Laugavegur 100

When the Bubble Tea Café closed in 2015, Icelanders were devastated. Where would they get their bubble fix now? For four years, that question remained unanswered. Then, in early August, Chatime opened in the lobby of 100 Iceland Hotel. If you've never had bubble tea, now is your chance. They have vegan and gluten free options, too, so you'll find that there is something for everyone there. **SO**

**G**

**HÚRRA REYKJAVÍK**

ADIDAS ORIGINALS | AÍMÉ LEON DORE | CARHARTT WIP


COMMON PROJECTS | DROLE DE MONSIEUR | EYTTY

FILLING PIECES | HAN KJOBENHAVN | HERON PRESTON

NIKE SPORTSWEAR | NORSE PROJECTS | PALM ANGELS

SSS WORLD CORP | STONE ISLAND | STÜSSY | RED WING

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scene by storm upon opening in 2018, with its eclectic streetwear selection. They have designers that no one else has.

**20. Fischer**

Fischersund

More art installation than regular store, the "Sigur Rós shop" is an aesthetic environment with a soothing soundtrack, sweet scents floating in the air, and a natural, earthy colour palette. They sell a range of amazing things, from hand-picked tea, to artworks and records.

**21. IDA Zimsen**

Vesturgata 2a

This peaceful spot is equal parts

café and bookstore, so you can get a coffee and a snack while you leaf through your purchases. Everything there is interesting. If the magazines fail, people-watching never does.

**22. 12 Tónar**

Skólavörðustígur 15

This city-centre record store is something of an institution, offering the unique experience of having the store staff ask about your music taste then sit you down with a coffee, some headphones, and a pile of Icelandic records.

**23. Farmers And Friends**

Hólmaslóð 2 & Laugavegur 37

If you want to pick up an Icelandic

sweater, peruse the Farmers Market outlet. Their wares combine Nordic style with a fresh aesthetic, providing you with a modern take on traditional pieces.

**24. CNTMP**

Laugavegur 12b

This sleek and minimal streetwear boutique occupies an enviable spot on the main Laugavegur strip. An acronym for "contemporary," the shop's name describes its concept—the store will sell limited garments by streetwear brands.

**25. Spúútnik**

Laugavegur 28b

This well-curated clothing emporium

is more like a secondhand clothing boutique than a charity shop. It's expensive but it's all imported stuff you won't find anywhere else. They're also very particular with their selection: after sorting through maybe six shirts, they'll determine that just one is truly good enough.

**26. Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn**

Skólavörðustígur 8

In a sense Rauðhetta & Úlfurinn is a Reykjavik classic. It's been around for over a decade, and the service is congenial without being overbearing. People are loyal to their favourite hairdresser, meaning some of them have long waiting lists, but pop in and try your luck.

**I**

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AUSTURSTRÆTI 3 REYKJAVÍK



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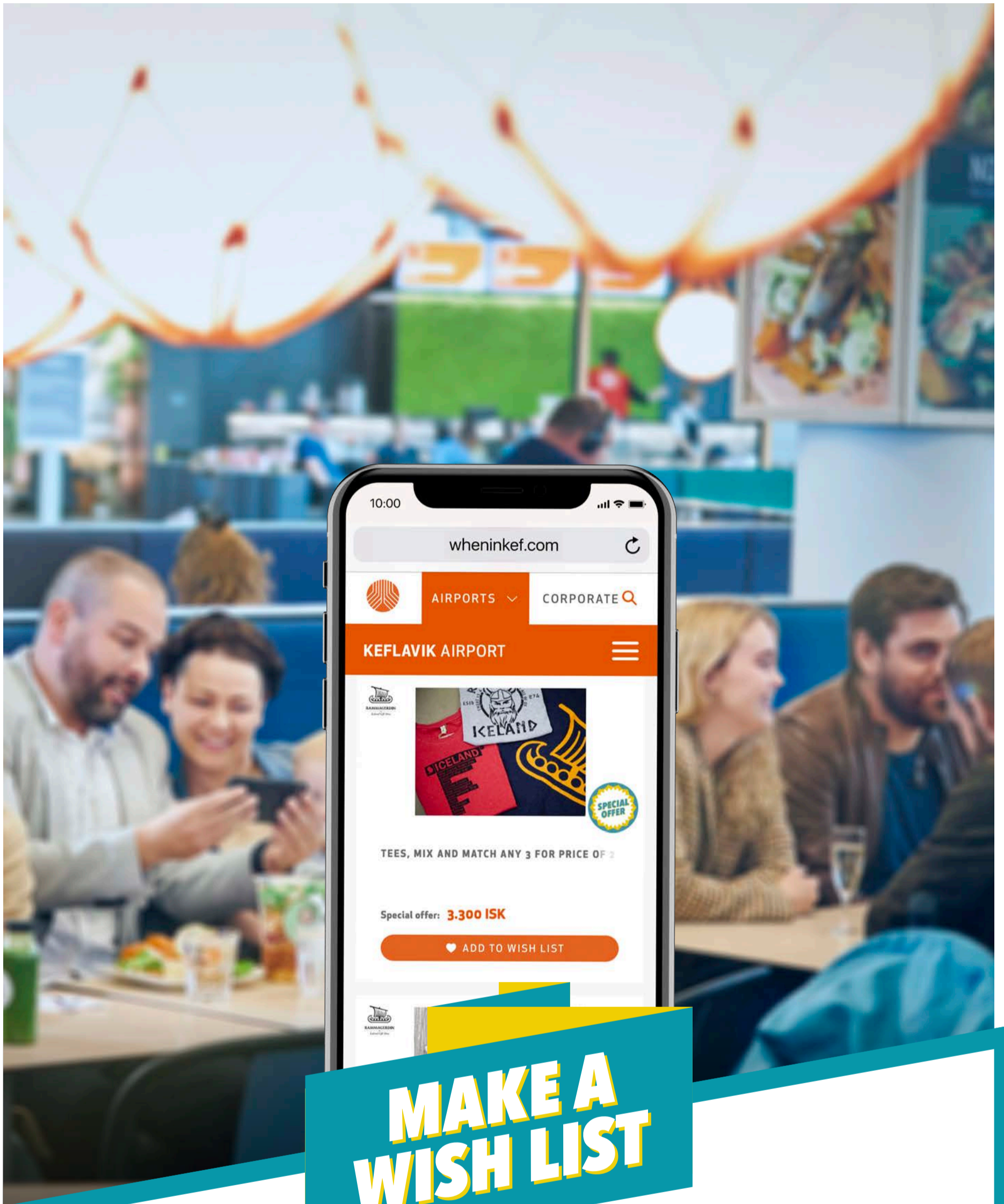
Ribs - Burgers. Chicken Wings!

**AMERICAN BAR**

REYKJAVÍK

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# MAKE A WISH LIST

Plan ahead and make the most of your last hours in Iceland.

On [wheninkef.com](https://wheninkef.com), you can browse through our shopping selection, select your favourite items and then shop with ease when you get to the airport. It's like a wish come true, in a way.

Oh, and all shops and restaurants are **tax and duty free**.

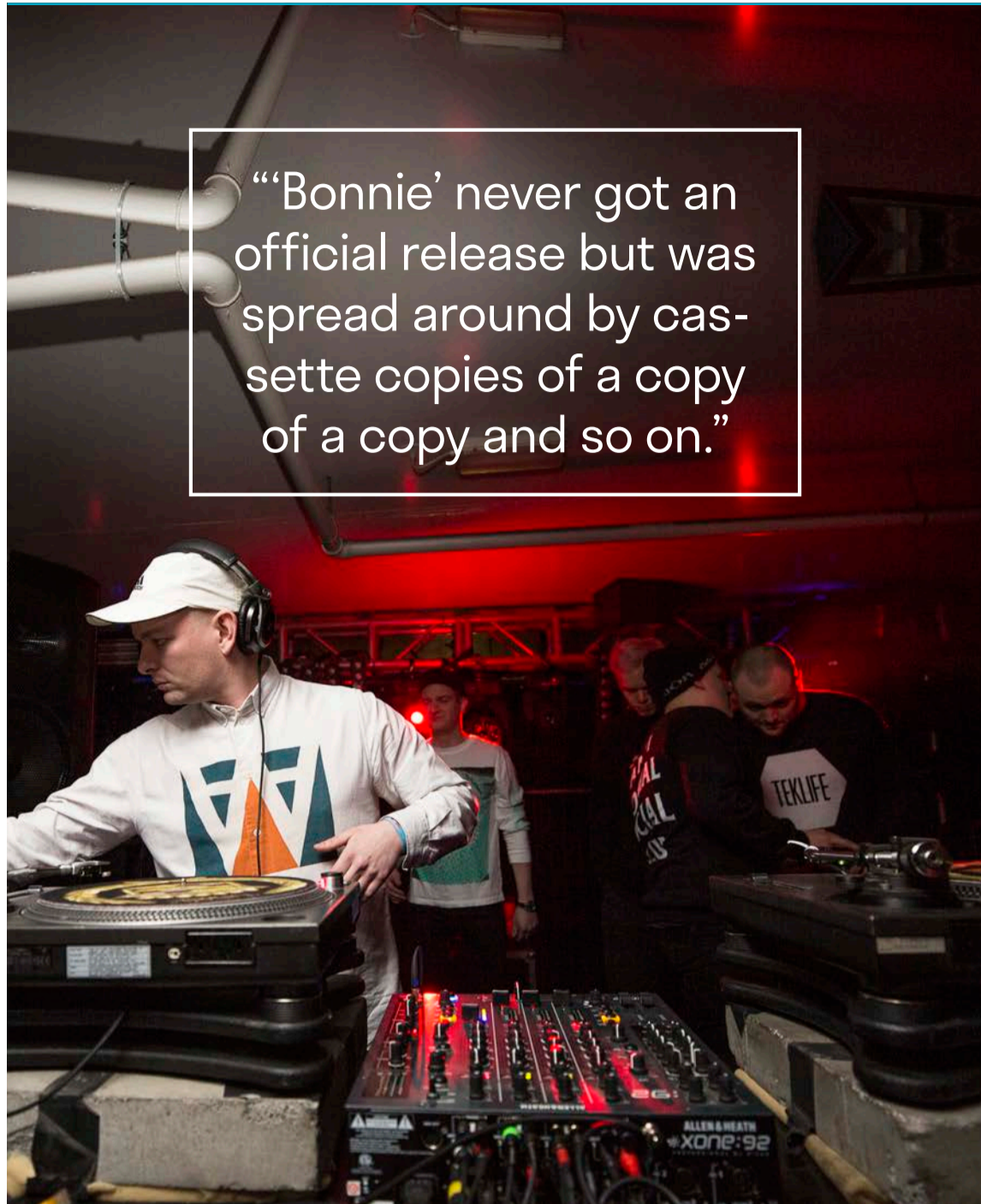


 [wheninkef.com](https://wheninkef.com)

 [#wheninKEF](https://www.instagram.com/wheninKEF)







“Bonnie’ never got an official release but was spread around by cassette copies of a copy of a copy and so on.”

ARTIST PLAYLIST

# Lift Off With Plútó

The roots of Icelandic techno reveal themselves

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen & Plútó Photo: Art Bicnick

Eleven-member DJ group Plútó comprise the most comprehensive knowledge tank of dance and electronic music in Iceland, essentially like an art collective, but without the pretentiousness. Here, five members disclose their favourite Icelandic track.

**Kocoon**

Subterranean - My Style Is Freaky

Because I started out as a Hip Hop DJ in the mid 90s, I needed to pick a track that impacted me the most when I was a teenager. Subterranean were the MVPs at that time, bringing that deep, quality East Coast sound that was ruling the scene in those days. I chose that track from the album ‘Central Magnetism’ even though the whole album is fantastic. Still relevant, IMO.

**Gunni Ewok**

Mind in Motion - Bonnie

A song that never got an official release, but was spread around via cassette copies of a copy of a copy and so on and now on

YouTube. I was around 12-years-old at the time and was just getting into rave/hardcore music and was really blown away that there were Icelandic artists actually doing this kind of music. Thanks to people like Aggi Agzilla, Biogen, Thor and loads others, Iceland picked up on the UK rave scene and even had a great all-Icelandic hardcore compilation called ‘Icerave’ that everyone interested in the history of Icelandic dance music should check out.

**Ozy**

COLD - Strobe Light Network

It’s such an awesome track that builds slowly over 15 minutes and ends in euphoric bliss. I remember hearing this record as a kid and being blown away by its unique sound. Importantly, it played a part in placing Icelandic ambient/techno on an international stage, and laid the foundation for a classic catalog of Reykjavik-made techno in the late 90s. For those interested, check out the Thule Records catalog.

**Tandri**

Sigur Rós - Ágætis Byrjun

Man, if there is ever a song that really captures the Icelandic spirit and lays it out over a simple but hypnotizingly beautiful groove that just goes on and on dragging you further into its mindscape, it’s this. Made while Kjartan Sveinsson still had a lot to bring to their sound, this title song of their second album is a pure cleansing for the ears and mind. The ‘Heima’ version is where it’s at.

*Recommended listening:* While driving in Icelandic nature to watch the sounds come to life.

*Not recommended listening:* As an Icelandic expat in a foreign country. It is guaranteed to make you homesick.

**Nærvera**

Björk - Army Of Me

I remember seeing this song when I was eight years old on MTV and thinking that this song was amazing without even knowing it was Icelandic. I watched it probably everyday on MTV for a whole year, mesmerised by the video and the song. It opened me up to all kinds of music. It was totally different than thing I was listening to at that time and moved me in directions more towards electronic/alternative music.



Grandagarður 7, 101 Reykjavík



# Music



HríM, keeping cool

## Flow State

HríM is ready to thrill at Iceland Airwaves

Words: **Josie Gaitens** Photo: **Provided by HríM**

### Concert

HríM is performing at the **Iceland Airwaves** festival in November.

“For a long time, this project has been extremely self-indulgent,” admits Ösp Eldjárn, somewhat bashfully. The project in question is HríM, a collaboration between herself and fellow musicians Anil Sebastian and Cherif Hashizume. Musically, they bring together a variety of different styles, creating a unique sound that matches traditional Icelandic poetry with electronic soundscapes and orchestral swoops.

The band performed a small run of gigs in 2016, but have since appeared to be dormant to outside eyes. The announcement that HríM will play their first Icelandic gig as part of this year’s Iceland Airwaves festival (coupled with the release of a handful of new singles), has thrust them back into public awareness. Despite the apparent stasis, Ösp reassures that plenty has been going on behind the scenes. “We’ve been creating music in this kind of flow state, just improvising and doing a jam session, basically,” she explains. “We reflect on it and take pieces that were good and somehow we create songs.”

### Diverse Backgrounds

Despite their limited output, HríM have managed to craft a distinctive sound, one that cohesively reflects the individual influences and backgrounds of each band member. Ösp, who is originally from Svarfaðardalur, grew up surrounded by folk and traditional music and poetry, before

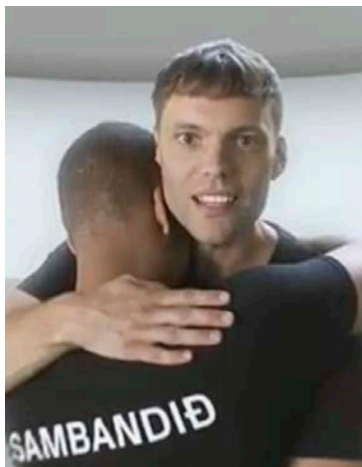
going on to study both classical and jazz singing.

While completing her studies in London, she met the leader of London Contemporary Voices, Anil Sebastian. “We had the same approach to singing and we just felt like we needed to work together,” she says. Cherif, an electronic artist and producer, joined later. “He came in kind of as the third element and he brought in the soundscape thing which is another layer of our sound.” Cherif is a long-time collaborator of Jon Hopkins, co-producing his hit single ‘Emerald Rush’ that was released last year.

### Making Time

In fact, all three artists have a sparkling roster of former collaborators, albeit from quite different musical circles. Ösp predominantly performs her own acoustic folk compositions, but she was previously a member of Icelandic bluegrass group Brother Grass. Anil, on the other hand, has worked with the likes of Guy Sigsworth, Imogen Heap and Manu Delago.

Ösp recognises that their busy work schedules and other projects have held them back from investing more time in HríM. However, the opportunity to play at Airwaves has been the push they have been looking for to commit to launching the group as a fully-fledged act. “We have more music that we have been writing as well, so we just want this set to be out and then we can continue,” she says. “We’re not going to go back to just being nerdy in a basement somewhere making weird noises.”



### MUSIC NEWS

Útvarp 101, the youth-led radio station founded by the crew behind the 101 Boys label slash recording studio slash perfume brand, recently announced the development of **101 Sambandið**, a virtual mobile phone carrier. The plan with the carrier, as presented at a grand event in Harpa concert hall on August 23rd, is to offer the cheapest prices, allow users to retain their data allowances between months, and transfer data allowance (GigabyteCash), which could become a currency of sorts, which could be used between friends to pay for things like 101 Boys perfume. Profits from this venture will be used to fund the radio station and other creative endeavours. We hope that means more **Aron Can** releases.



Early in the evening at the Mennin-garnótt concert, **Auður** made waves performing his hit “Freðinn.” The huge free concert was attended by tens of thousands and broadcast live on TV. The song, the name of which roughly translates as “Stoned,” is about being stoned, and its place in the courtship of young people. This caught the ire of concerned parents, worried that this was a bad message for the youngsters that crowded the front half of the concert area, which in turn caught the ire of freedom-loving internet users, leading to yet another bad-faith shitshow of lukewarm opinions. Auður, meanwhile, does not care to comment. We assume he is stoned.



**Björk**, in typical Björk fashion, announced the release of a new box set complete with 14 birdcall flutes. The set, based around her 2017 album ‘Utopia,’ will cost £500, and presumably will allow the listener to chirp along with the celebrated chanteuse. The birdcalls on the flutes vary from the long eared owl to the redshank common sandpiper to the great tit. Also included is a USB, which features 360 unreleased photos of Björk as well as music videos and some bird call tutorial videos. You can pre-order the box set online at indian.co.uk.

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## Our Picks



### Conversations With Nick Cave

August 31st - 20:00 - Harpa - 6,900-13,990 ISK ★

Do you not believe in an interventionist God? Do they call you the wild rose even though your name is Elisa Day? Do you like to play a deadly lyre?

And on August 31st, do you plan on walking through the rain and walking through the mud to a place called the Bucket of Blood to see your beloved King

of Goth, Mr. Nick Cave? Ok, it's not actually the Bucket of Blood, it's Harpa concert hall. This special show is a mix of live concert and Q&A, so get ready to have a direct conversation with the raven haired icon. Tickets are currently sold out, but many people are selling theirs in the discussion section of the Facebook event. **HJC**



### Flaaryr: Vegvisir

September 7th - 15:00 - FLÆDI ★

The Argentinian composer presents their new instrumental album. **HJC**



### Grit Teeth Goodbye Show

August 31st - 20:00 - Reykjavik Tool Library - Free! ★

Grit Teeth, one of Iceland's most beloved hardcore/grindcore bands is saying goodbye. So draw some Xs on your hands and sprain your back moshing with the best of 'em. Tears guaranteed. **HJC**



### Devine Defilement

Sept. 7th - 21:00 - Gaukurinn ★

Do you like death metal? Sludge? Doom? Course you do. You're not a fucking poseur. **HJC**



### Grisalappalísa / ROHT / Skoffin.

September 3rd - 21:00 - Gaukurinn - Pay what you want! ★

Grisalappalísa is back! The comedic and furiously energetic punk-poetry collective has returned. Their live shows are notoriously rowdy, so leave your Grandma at home for this one. Unless she likes tight pants. **HJC**

## August 30th—September 12th

# Concerts & Nightlife

Events listed are all live performances and DJs. Venues are listed by day. For complete listings and detailed information on venues visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening). Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is).

### Friday August 30th

#### Melodica Reykjavik Festival 2019

18:00 Kex Hostel

#### Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

##### Favourite Classics

20:00 Harpa

##### Ragga Gröndal

21:00 Flóran Garden Bistro

##### GG Blús

22:00 Hard Rock Café

##### DJ Kári

18:00 Petersen svítan

##### Björn Valur x Big Baby

22:00 Prikið

##### Halldór Ragnarsson x Ólafur Arnalds

22:00 Kaffibarinn

##### RVK.Live (Vöruskemman)

22:00 Bravó

##### DJ Óli Dóri

20:00 Klaustur Bar

19:30 Tjarnarbió

##### Karitas x Sura

22:00 Prikið

##### DJ Gull & Silfur

22:00 Kaffibarinn

##### Church Radio

22:00 Bravó

##### DJ De La Rosa

20:00 Klaustur Bar

##### Bergur Thomas Andersson & Ash Kilmartin

21:00 Mengi

##### Gaukshreiðrið

15:00 Jómfrúinn

### Sunday September 1st

#### Raggi Bjarna: 85 Years

20:00 Harpa

#### Sunday Jazz

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

#### Melodica Reykjavik Festival 2019

15:30 Kex Hostel

### Tuesday September 3rd

#### ★ Grisalappalísa / ROHT / Skoffin

21:00 Gaukurinn

#### Teebs & Korea Town Oddity:

Here; Untitled

21:00 Mengi

#### Karaoke Party!

21:00 Gaukurinn

#### Jazz Night

20:30 Kex Hostel

#### Iceland Symphony Orchestra

19:30 Hljómahöll

### Wednesday September 4th

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### The Jazz Walk

17:00 Lucky Records

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Opening Ceremony

17:30 Ráðhús Reykjavik

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Evening Concert

19:30 National Gallery of Iceland

#### Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

#### Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

#### South To The Aegean Sea:

Marina Karagianni & Eva Pyri

Hilmarsdóttir

12:15 Salurinn

### Thursday September 5th

#### ★ Októberfest SHÍ: Herra

Hnetusmjör, Huginn, Auður, Hildur,

Briet & More

20:00 Háskóli Íslands

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Árni Heiðar Quartet

19:30 Tjarnarbió

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Jurd / Sigurjónsson / McMemore

20:30 Tjarnarbió

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Salsakommúnan

22:00 Tjarnarbió

##### Sváfnir Sig

21:00 Hard Rock Café

#### Living Out Loud & Kisimja

21:00 Gaukurinn

15:00 FLÆDI

#### ★ Devine Defilement / Kvelja /

Blóðmör / Gamli / Stor

21:00 Gaukurinn

#### Hjaltalín

20:00 Harpa

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Karl Olgeirsson

15:30 City Hall

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Jakob Gunnarsson Quintet

15:30 City Hall

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Silva, Pálsson, Zetterberg & Scheving

19:30 Hard Rock Café

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Tori Freestone Trio

20:30 Hard Rock Café

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Hist og

22:00 Hard Rock Café

### Tuesday September 10th

#### Iron Lung

19:00 R6013

#### Karaoke Party!

22:00 Gaukurinn

#### Bjarni Sveinbjörnsson & Band

20:30 Kex Hostel

#### Siggi String Quartet

19:30 Salurinn

### Wednesday September 11th

#### Iron Lung / ROHT / Dauðyflin /

##### xGADDAVÍRx

21:00 Gaukurinn

#### Don Lockwood Band

21:00 Slippbarinn

#### Party Karaoke With DJ Dóra Júlía & Helga Margrét

21:00 Sæta Svinið

#### Peter Máté Performs John Speight

20:00 Hannesarholt

#### Filalag

19:00 Kex Hostel

### Thursday September 12th

#### Emiliana Torrini

20:30 Salurinn

#### Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

##### Open Rehearsal

9:30 Harpa

#### Iceland Symphony Orchestra:

##### Ravel & Sibelius

19:30 Harpa

#### Extrme Chill Festival: Hermigervill & Mixmaster Morris

19:00 Klaustur Bar

#### Extreme Chill Festival: Marcus

##### Fisher / Hotel Neon / Spectrodo

19:30 Mengi

#### DJ Óli Dóri

20:00 Klaustur Bar

#### Spünk

21:00 Gaukurinn



Emiliana Torrini, shredding

### Friday September 6th

#### Hjaltalín

20:00 Harpa

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Ludvig Kári Forberg Quartet

17:00 City Hall

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Silva Þórðardóttir Quartet

19:30 Tjarnarbió

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Phronesis

20:30 Tjarnarbió

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Sigurður Flosason Quartet

22:00 Tjarnarbió

#### In Siren / Future Figment /

##### Flavor Fox

21:30 Hard Rock Café

#### DJ Ohm

20:00 Klaustur Bar

#### Lilja Ásmundsdóttir & Ingibjörg Ýr

TBA Mengi

### Saturday September 7th

#### ★ Flaaryr: Vegvisir Release Concert

#### Iceland Country Music Festival 2019

18:00 Hvítahúsið Skemmtistaður

#### DJ Cyprie Afrósól

20:00 Klaustur Bar

#### Kraftgalli

21:00 Mengi

### Sunday September 8th

#### Passion & Malice:

##### Opera Arias & Duets

20:00 Harpa

#### Sunday Jazz

20:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### Árni Heiðar Quartet

19:30 Tjarnarbió

#### Reykjavik Jazz Festival:

##### María Magnúsdóttir Sings

Anita O'Day

15:00 Hard Rock Café

### Monday September 9th

#### Cate Le Bon

20:00 Hljómahöll



Ólafur Arnalds, pictured yesterday

### Saturday August 31th

#### ★ Conversations With Nick Cave

20:00 Harpa

#### ★ Grit Teeth Goodbye Concert

20:00 Reykjavik Tool Library

#### Melodica Reykjavik Festival 2019

15:30 Kex Hostel

#### Dans Afrika Barakan Festival

22:00 Bryggjan Brugghús

#### Mosi Frændi / Saktmóðigur /

##### Blóðmör

20:00 Hard Rock Café

#### Musical & Disney Karaoke



★ For music listings from Sept. 12th on, check out [happening.grapevine.is](http://happening.grapevine.is) or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android





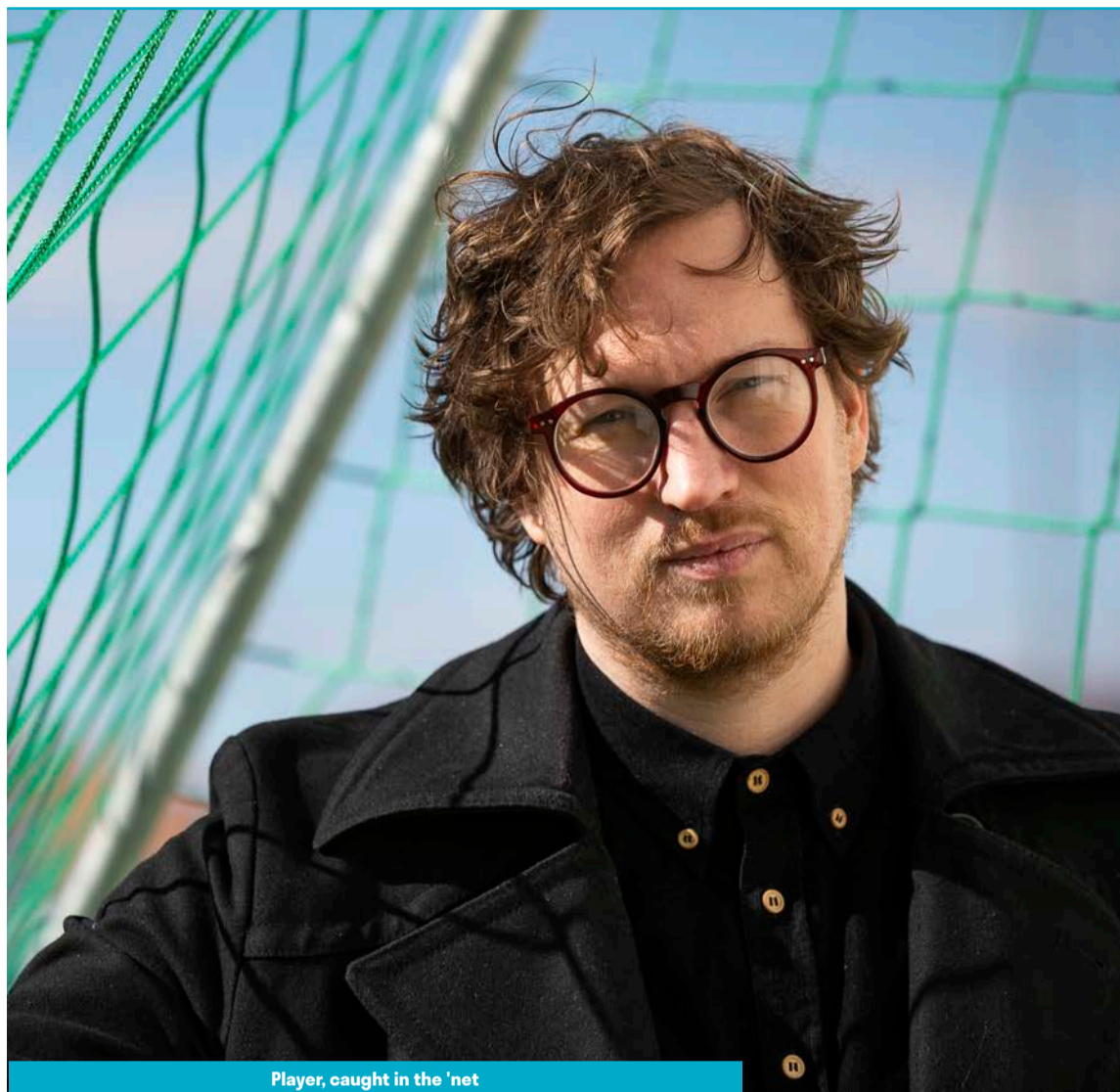
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Player, caught in the 'net

# Staying Slightly Hungry

Árni Vil on his debut album and sustaining creativity

Words: Freya Dinesen Photo: Art Bicnick

I was 'full'—I wasn't curious exploring that avenue any further."

### Bringing it together

As an album, 'Slightly Hungry' glistens with nuances of innumerable musical influences, yet it is still distinctively unique. Each track's arrangement and production is attention-grabbing in a way that evokes a comforting familiarity, while also presenting itself as truly original and strategically polished.

Working closely with Thoracius Appotite, the pair gradually built the record through organic collaborative efforts. "Thoracius is really good with sound and we were really playful," Árni explains. "Sometimes it was just [one take] as the ground-work for the song... I was lucky that we had really good instrumentalists."

Featuring guest vocals from Mr. Silla and Sóley, and performances by Örn Eldjárn on guitar, Björn Stefánsson on percussion, Tumi Árnason on saxophone and Eiríkur Orri on horns, 'Slightly Hungry' yields new waves of nostalgia with every listen.

### It's not over until you start over

With his next album slowly simmering away on the back-burner, Árni is still unsure where this project will take him.

"I love starting with an idea and then finishing it," he discloses. "I could have given up on this [last] album, but I thought 'No, I have to finish it because if

I don't, I don't know what I will do next'. The only way you know what you're going to do next is to finish what you started."

"If you're curious enough, you're never too full or too hungry; that's the 'canned' philosophy." 🍷

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### Album / Concert

Árni Vil will be performing a release concert at Hannesarholt on September 28th.

Árni Vil's solo project certainly feels a far-cry away from his days with legendary electro party-band FM Belfast. His debut record also stands to show that being 'Slightly Hungry'—the title of the effort—is not exclusive to describing the status of one's nutritional sustenance.

Taking philosophical influence from abstract painter Agnes Martin, the term has spurred a deeper ethos for Árni and his creative approach. "It's a metaphor for being curious," Árni earnestly explains. "If you're curious then you're alive; you're young. You don't get old if you're curious."

"It's also more difficult to do stuff if you're too full," he continues. "Then you get bored; and if you're too hungry, then you just get frustrated and anxious and desperate. It's the best state to be in, to do stuff in: being slightly hungry."

### Knowing when to change

Árni Vil is a man who probably knows a little about keeping a balanced diet. His ever-evolving aspirations in art, music and theatre directed his interests towards this solo project, as well as his involvement with Art Studio Art Collective and experimental theatre trio Kriðpleir. Ultimately, these ambitions also saw his departure as FM Belfast's frontman.

"We didn't really announce it; we didn't make a big fuss over it," Árni says somewhat pensively as he sips his coffee. "Bands change members; it's not that big of a deal."

"I loved performing with FM Belfast," he continues. "It's like a constant party; a constant joy. When I felt that it wasn't the party and joy for me anymore, it felt really weird for me to continue. I was always happy on the stage because there's this energy that's contagious, but it wasn't the truth for me anymore."

**"If you're curious enough, you're never too full or too hungry; that's the 'canned' philosophy."**





Mercury Music Prize nominated artist Cate Le Bon

## Strange Rewards

Cate Le Bon dropped out of music and made a Mercury-nominated masterpiece

Words: John Rogers Photo: Ivana Kličković

### Concert

Cate Le Bon plays at Hljómahöll in Keflavík on September 9th. Tickets are on sale now.

At the start of the summer, talk of the Cate Le Bon's beautifully formed new LP 'Reward' spread like wildfire. Lauded for its careful production, earworm melodies that unfold at a languid pace, poetic and revealing lyrics and striking arrangements, it was a breakthrough hit. It would go on to receive a nomination for the UK's high profile Mercury Music Prize, catapulting the record directly into the mainstream.

Cate is still processing the nomination. "People have been asking me: 'what does it mean for you?'" she says, speaking on the phone from Cardiff. "And while it's great, there's also a lot to think about. It's a complex answer. It's surreal."

### Catharsis or joy

This isn't all that's surreal about 'Reward'. It was written almost by accident, during a period when Cate decided to decamp to the Lake District to live in a cottage, enrolling in a course to study the craft of furniture making. "The

songs were written without the awareness that I was writing a record," she says. "I was so confused by school I turned to the piano for catharsis or joy. When I realised that I'd written a record—and not in the way that I'd intended to—some of the songs had been around for a long time, and had been company to me."

The experience of transitioning from travelling, working, and constantly meeting people to study and solo living is explored lyrically on "Home To You," one of the most immediate tracks on the album. "I'd changed the structure of my life almost entirely," she says. "It felt at times very close to normality, but also completely alien. There are massive disparities in what home means to different people. The song is an exploration of all of that."

### A lineage of women

The album travels from the wide-screen opener of "Miami"—about, says Cate, a moment in which a major life shift occurred on tour,

with the city of Miami as its surreal backdrop—to a feminist reading of the domestic, such as on the track "Mother's Magazines".

"That song is about a lineage of women, and what you pass on," says Cate. "I was thinking about how, even though there's still horrendous inequality, at least now there's movement, and a vocabulary exists that people feel comfortable using to talk about it."

The song also features some insistent and slightly jarring brass arrangements. "There's a bit of friction there," says Cate. "Some of the sounds are a little bit harsh. I guess light and darkness verify one another. It's important for those two things to always be visible."

### Public property

While the album was written in close, solo circumstances, it was recorded in Northern California, and finished in Joshua Tree. Now,

Cate will take it on the road on a long tour, including some US dates with Deerhunter, and her first Iceland show at Keflavík's Hljómahöll. It promises to be a challenging

process. "It's absolutely terrifying," she says. "What you craft in privacy becomes public property. You finish mastering and sign it all off, and it's almost like a defense mechanism to numb yourself to the record and almost reject it. But that's also when people are hearing it for the first time. To let go of it is pretty strange."

[gpv.is/music](http://gpv.is/music)  
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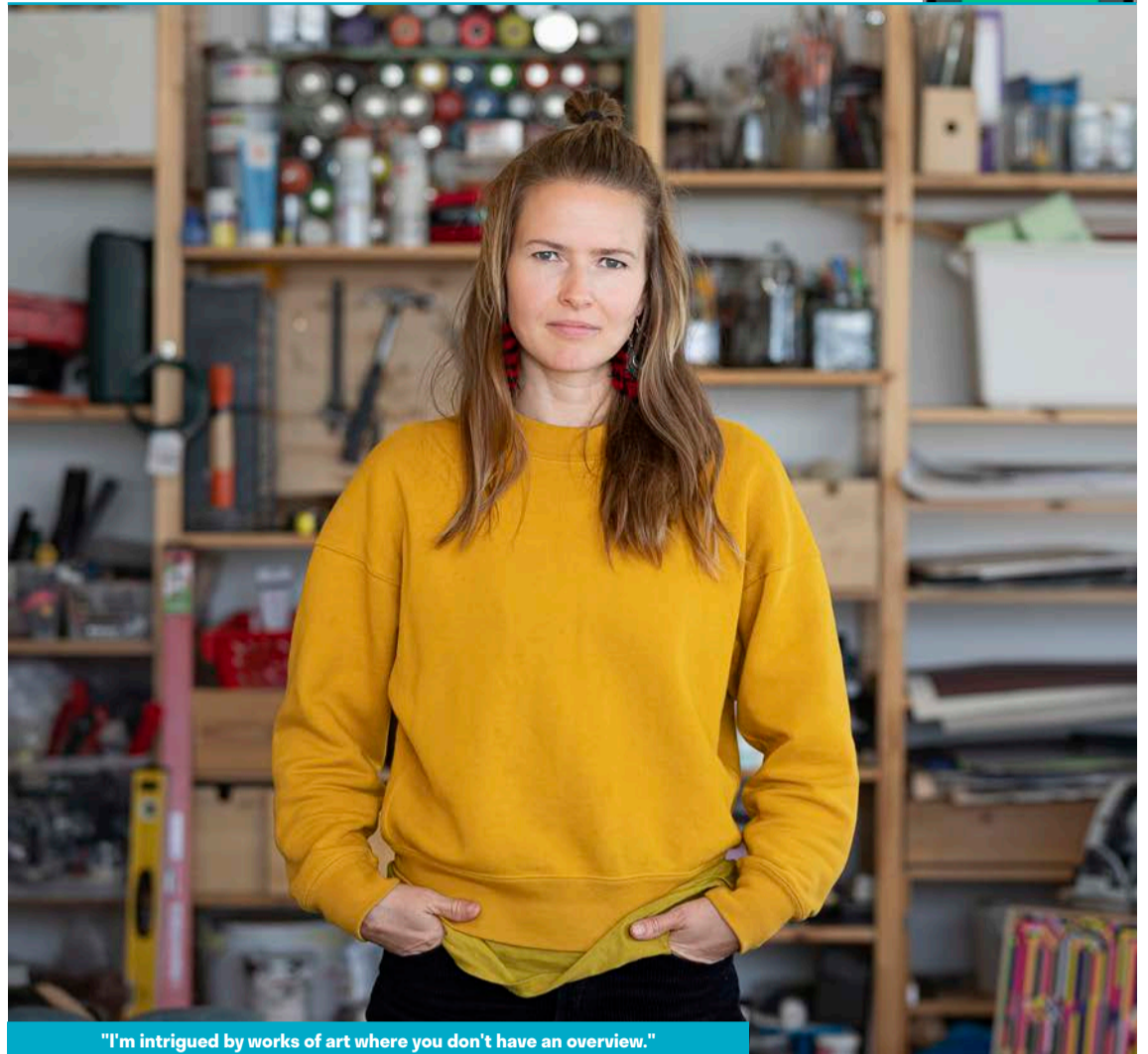
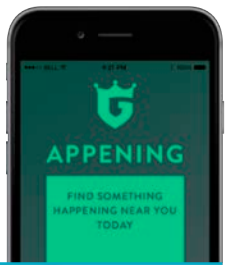
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"I'm intrigued by works of art where you don't have an overview."

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# Seeing The Bigger Picture

Elín Hansdóttir's new exhibition reveals  
the joy in the artistic process

Words: **Kimi Tayler** Photo: **Art Bicnick**

## Exhibition

Elín Hansdóttir's show opens at  
Ásmundarsalur from September 7th  
and runs until October 6th

Meeting in the studio with ten days to go until the opening of her still unnamed new exhibition, visual artist Elín Hansdóttir is in the exciting final stages of preparations. Known for large scale immersive installations, film and photography, she's trying something new for this one. "I've never done casting," she says, pointing to the newly finished sculptural pieces sitting on the studio floor. "And in trying a new process, there are many things you don't think about, but that's the excitement and the challenge."

## A change in scale

Elín is known for creating temporary interventions installed directly into a space. "Normally I would be building at this moment in time—I would need ten days to construct. But this time I'm trying out something else. I decided to scale down and see what happens," she explains.

The change in scale, she emphasises, brings a shift in focus,

"It's like putting on your glasses, everything becomes really crisp and then you take them off and see the bigger picture," she says. "It requires a different kind of attention."

Whilst there might be a departure in media and scale of work in this new exhibition, Elín is thematically still following her familiar thread of considering how we perceive and inhabit space. "It's the inside of Ásmundarsalur, but I'm adding a fictional space," she says, explaining that the casts will be accompanied by large scale photographs, allowing the viewer to further occupy this illusory world.

"I'm intrigued by works of art where you don't have an overview, like immersive spaces where you are not in control and you don't really know what's going to happen. It changes your perception of who you are and how you experience space," she says. "I'm curious to see

if that's also possible on a smaller scale. Is it possible to look at a model of a space that you're actually in and imagine yourself as a small person experiencing what you're looking at?"

## Imposing no meaning

By scaling down, the exhibition will hopefully open a new world of exploration. "I'm hoping that walking in to the exhibition will be something like reading a book. Because when you read a novel you're imagining the character that you're reading about; you imagine the space they're within, the building, the cities, it's all a construction of your mind," she explains. "So I'm hoping that this exhibition might be read in this way, and that there is a kind of leeway for the visitor to contribute."

Returning to craft and making is an essential element of this show for Elín. "I have always been really fascinated by people who dedicate their lives to learning a craft. I've never regarded myself as a specialist in anything. But by learning and making, and building all these things, it's a joy for me, and it's important that you enjoy the making process."

But the conclusion, she emphasises, is not dogmatic. "I prefer not to impose too much meaning," she concludes. "I'm interested in how we experience architecture with our bodies, and how we embody an experience. I'm interested

in how we navigate and experience the city; how we dwell in the city and how the city dwells in us. It's a reciprocal relationship, and it's the same with these works."

**"Is it possible to look at a model of a space that you're actually in and imagine yourself as a small person experiencing what you're looking at?"**



## Our Picks



### ★ Prison

Until October 27th - Hafnarborg

Anna Hallin and Olga Bergmann capture the “all-seeing eye” of surveillance systems, exploring the concept of prison, both in the conventional sense within the

walls of detention centers, as well as beyond into the greater monitoring of every-day society. Their exhibit depicts the restrictions of movement that coerce people into accepting power structures. From the locked up detainees who’s physical movements are controlled in a physical space by guards, and the mental prisons of social media and search engines that control access to information. The work then critiques the relationship between prisons, comparing everyday people’s prison to the detainee’s loss of space and connection. **LS**



### ★ WE RUINED EVERYTHING

September 6th-19th - Listastofan

Alas, Listastofan is closing. They’re capping off their influential run with one last hurrah entitled ‘WE RUINED

EVERYTHING.’ The exhibit features eight Icelandic artists mulling the theme of destruction with absurd humour. Burn the place down. **HJC**



### ★ MOTHER & CHILD

Until September 29th - Kling & Bang

This exhibit turns the floor into a ceiling. A figurative life-sized bronze statue

lies upside-down, permitting the viewer to subvert their gaze and see the world from a new direction. Basically like entering ‘Stranger Things.’ **HJC**



### ★ Icelandic Cornershops

Until November 5th - Reykjavik Museum of Photography

In the mid-80s, small shops were on every street corner, serving

as social centres, where people gathered to chat, catch up, and exchange news. This exhibit celebrates that lost piece of history. **HJC**

## August 30th—September 12th

# Art Listings

Events are listed by venue. For complete listings and detailed information on venues, visit [grapevine.is/happening](http://grapevine.is/happening).

Send your listings to: [listings@grapevine.is](mailto:listings@grapevine.is)

### Opening

#### REGUS ICELAND

##### Splash 3x10

Aron Levi Beck, who is also the chairman of the young social democrats, presents an exhibition of paintings.

• Runs on September 5th from 16:00-19:00

#### REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

##### Helgi Gíslason: Where The Boundaries Lie

Helgi Gíslason presents a series of sculptures from different periods of his career. In his work, Helgi deals with man and the human condition. His works, though, are up for interpretation.

• Opens on August 31st, 2019  
• Runs until November 3rd, 2019

#### REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUMS

##### Autumn Bulbs

The Reykjavik Art Museums—all of them—present a special exhibition outside the walls of the museum. Public art, in the public domain, which focuses on intangible media and manifestation.

• Opens on September 7th, 2019  
• Runs until September 29th, 2019

### Ongoing

#### NATIONAL GALLERY OF ICELAND

##### Treasures Of A Nation

A selection of over 80 works chosen from the national gallery’s collection displays the evolution of art since the 19th century.

• Runs until December 31st, 2019

##### Hulda Hákon: Who Are Your People?

Hulda Hákon’s reliefs are considered an innovative addition to the flora of neo-expressionism. At this retrospective, come scrutinise society and the environment with the influential artist.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019

#### EINAR JÓNSSON MUSEUM

##### Permanent Exhibition

The museum contains close to 300 artworks including a beautiful garden with 26 bronze casts of the artist’s sculptures.

#### ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEM

##### Daily Guided Tours

Tours are from 13:00 to 14:00 through its open-air exhibits.

#### REYKJAVÍK CITY MUSEUM

##### Settlement Sagas

As Viking ruins meet digital technology, this exhibition provides insight into Reykjavik’s farms at the time of the first settlers.

#### REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - ÁSMUNDARSAFN

##### Ásmundur Sveinsson: Under the Same Sky - Art In Public Space

Ásmundarsafn is named after sculptor Ásmundur Sveinsson. This new permanent exhibition presents the artist in a new light. What dialogue does his works provoke?

• Runs until December 31st, 2019

#### REYKJAVÍK MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY

##### I Remember the Mountain

Weather conditions, seasons, lightning, natural forces, and human experiences coalesce into an exhibition of photographs cum paintings. Analog images reworked reveal the universal vastness and ever-changing qualities of nature.

• Runs until August 21st, 2019

##### Icelandic Meat Soup

Iceland in the 70s and 80s—long hair and printed button-ups included—is brought back to life by photographer Kristján Haraldsson, who uses the photos to articulate the practise of photography.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019

#### NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ICELAND

##### Myth Of A Woman

Agnieszka Sosnowska immigrated to Iceland 13 years. With her photographs, she documents herself, her students, new family members, and friends. Her inspiration is the strength of the female spirit.

• Runs until September 1st, 2019

##### Life, as it is lived, before the transformation

In stark black and white, Yrsa Roca Fannberg captured life in Árneshreppur, the smallest parish in Iceland. Crisp and unrelenting, the photos capture the symbiotic relationship between man, animal and dirt.

• Runs until September 1st, 2019

#### REYKJAVÍK MARITIME MUSEUM

##### Fish & Folk

Name a better duo than fish and

Iceland. You can’t. So come learn about the history of Icelandic fisheries from rowing boats to monstrous motor boats.

##### Melckmeyt 1659

Melckmeyt was a Dutch merchant ship that crashed near Flatey Island in 1659. Explore the wreck here.

#### REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - HAFNARHÚS

##### Erró: Mao’s World Tour

Between 1972 and 1980, Erró painted over 130 paintings, with two images of different origins against each other: Chinese propaganda posters of Mao Zedong and Western tourist pictures from famous sites.

• Runs until January 5th, 2020

##### Human Condition Draft Of Contemporary Art History In Iceland [III]

What does it mean to be human? What are the psychological and corporeal characteristics of it? Here, selected artists take on these fundamental questions.

• Runs until September 15th, 2019

##### Finnbogi Pétursson - Hz

In a semi-dark dungeon, two mighty subwoofers positioned over a vast tank of black water fill the air with an almost unbearably low hum, generating a slight ripple over the tank and making you feel like your brain is slowly dribbling out of your ears in the process.

• Runs until September 15th, 2019

##### D39 Emma Heiðarsdóttir: Margin

In her first solo exhibition, Emma Heiðarsdóttir questions when and where the art experience begins and ends. Her works deal with site-specific interventions, three-dimensional objects, and visuals.

• Runs until September 22nd, 2019

#### SIGURJÓN ÓLAFSSON MUSEUM

##### Connections

To celebrate the 13th anniversary of the museum, this exhibition presents 13 artists in dialogue with Sigurjón and his art.

• Runs until October 6th, 2019

#### MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

##### URBAN SHAPE

Architect Paolo Gianfrancesco used data from Open Street Map to celebrate cities. The constant interplay of people and their environment will be revealed before your very eyes.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019

##### MORRA

Fashion designer Signý Þórhallsdóttir takes over the lobby to work with Icelandic flora on silk and paper for her MORRA collection.

• Runs until September 25th, 2019

##### Behind The Scenes: Archiving A Ceramic Collection

In 1979, Anna Eyjólfsson began to collect ceramic pieces by Icelandic artists. In 2017, the Museum of

acquired her collection. Currently, the museum is cataloguing the collection in front of your eyes.

• Runs until September 25th, 2019

#### NORDIC HOUSE

##### Porcelain Souls

Photographer Inuuteq Storch went through his parents’ archives and found photos and letters from their lives in Greenland and Denmark in the ‘60s and ‘80s. Explore them here.

• Runs until September 26th, 2019

#### REYKJAVÍK ART MUSEUM - KJARVALSSTAÐIR

##### Jóhannes S. Kjarval: Can’t Draw a Harebell

Here, explore the floral works of Jóhannes S. Kjarval, after whom the museum is named. Be it ornamental plants, potted plants, or wildflowers, you’ll find it all.

• Runs until December 31st, 2019

##### William Morris: Let Beauty Rule!

English artist William Morris was a true Icelandophile, and even translated the Sagas. Here, see original drawings of Morris’s patterns, wallpapers and work processes, paintings, drawings, and more.

• Runs until October 6th, 2019

#### GERÐARSAFN KÓPAVOGUR ART MUSEUM

##### Outline

The exhibition ‘Outline’ shows works from the collection of Gerðarsafn from 1950 until this day. In the exhibition, the outline becomes the connection between works in different mediums, the thread that ties them together.

• Runs until September 8th, 2019

#### ÁRBÆR OPEN AIR MUSEUM

##### HEIMAT: Two Worlds

To mark the 70th anniversary of

the arrival in 1949 of a group of Germans to who travelled to Iceland aboard the Esja ship, this exhibition presents photographs of their journey made by Marzena Skubatz.

• Runs until October 31st, 2019

#### RÝMD GALLERY

##### Pastelería Ideal

Here, sculpture and video installations perfectly replicate a Mexico City bakery... but in Iceland. The exhibit will only be open on August 2nd from 16:00 to 20:00.

• Runs until September 1st, 2019

#### LIVING ART MUSEUM

##### Resonances Of A Dynamic Absence

Karí Ómarsson’s new exhibit takes familiar shapes, materials, lines, words, and colours and turns them into unexpected fascinations.

• Runs until September 22nd, 2019

#### REYKJAVÍK ROASTERS

##### i kring 03

A collection of short stories. A mish-mash of pictures. A zine. Journey to all three Reykjavik Roasters locations and you’ll experience all of this in Kári Björn’s three-part exhibition.

• Runs until October 9th, 2019

#### HAFNARBORG

##### Everything At The Same Time

In this exhibit, explore how young artists take on and confront the freedom in contemporary visual arts. How can one extract meaning from that which can mean anything?

• Runs until October 20th, 2019

## MUSEUM OF DESIGN AND APPLIED ART

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Exhibitions:

**Urban Shape**  
Paolo Gianfrancesco

**Behind the Scenes**  
Archiving a ceramic collection

**Morra**  
Signý Þórhallsdóttir  
Designer in residence



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SEP 4TH, WED | 20.00 - 22.00

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SEP 6TH, FRI | 18.00 - 19.30

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**WINE & FOOD**  
PAIRING - LIMITED SEATING

SEP 18TH, WED | 19.00 - 21.00

CENTERHOTEL MIÐGARÐUR  
LAUGAVEGUR 120, 105 REYKJAVÍK

**BJÓR & BLÖÐ**  
HAPPY HOUR & BAR OFFERS

**THURSDAYS | 18.00 - 20.00**

CENTERHOTEL MIÐGARÐUR  
LAUGAVEGUR 120, 105 REYKJAVÍK

**MUSIC  
IN THE GARDEN**

LIVE MUSIC, HAPPY HOUR & OTHER BAR OFFERS

**SATURDAYS | 18.30 - 20.30**

SKÝ RESTAURANT & BAR  
INGÓLFSSTRÆTI 1, 101 REYKJAVÍK

**MUSIC  
IN THE SKY**  
ÍVAR SÍMONARSON PLAYS LIVE GUITAR



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# Film

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FILM



Elin Hansdóttir and Hanna Björk Valsdóttir, two of the film's three directors

## Take A Dive

A trio of visual artists bring the work of Snorri Magnússon to light in this joyful documentary

Words: Sam O'Donnell Photos: Dominika Milek

### Documentary

'Dive: Rituals in Water' premieres  
in Reykjavik at Bíó Paradís on  
September 5th

It is an old cliché that reality is stranger than fiction and this was certainly the case for directors Hanna Björk Valsdóttir, Elin Hansdóttir, and Anna Rún Tryggvadóttir as they went about creating their latest project, 'Dive: Rituals In Water.' The documentary tells the story of Snorri Magnússon, a swim coach with an unconventional clientele: babies.

While most children learn to swim around age five or so, Snorri teaches infants as young as four months old. This may seem dangerous, but babies are born with the instinct to hold their breath underwater, meaning they have an innate ability to swim. Snorri's teaching method involves singing to them, blowing on their faces, and then dunking them underwater. However, he never rushes their progress. He will also drum on his belly, splash in the water to a beat like a metronome, and lift the babies above the surface to make them feel comfortable. It's a surreal spectacle that translated to a beautiful film.

### The origins

The inspiration for the documentary was Snorri himself. Elin and Anna Rún had children around the same time, and took their babies to Snorri's swimming class. Together, along with Hanna, they met weekly, discussing how charismatic Snorri was, and how interesting it would be to make a film about his peculiar profession.

Soon after, the three talked to him about making the film. The end result is a film that explores the depths of human empathy in a surprisingly short run-time. "He works a lot with intuition, connecting with the child, watching the child, seeing the child's response," Elin says.

"And he has a special bond with the babies. You can see that," adds Hanna.

### A visual treat

The three filmmakers began the process nearly four years ago. From the onset, they were interested in the tactile aspects of water. However, the problem with filming in a pool is, for one thing, the water. Filming underwater isn't as simple as just dunking the camera. To fix this, the three

teamed up with cinematographer Bergsteinn Björgúlfsson, who not only worked with a crane in the pool, but also created some truly exquisite shots underwater by placing the camera in a weighted aquarium.

The other difficulty of filming in a pool is the sound quality, but the filmmakers used the echoic sounds of pools to their advantage. "By working with the sound, you can give the feeling of a baby's experience. We can't ask them, 'what do you think of Snorri's class?' but we can imagine," says Elin. They subsequently paired up with Björn Viktorsson, who was also the sound designer for 'Rams' and 'White, White Day.'

With his expertise, they were able to tell a story partially from the point of view of an infant.

### Special charisma

The film premiered in the US in March to critical acclaim, which is interesting because the most apprehensive couple in the film is American. Snorri's technique of blowing on a baby's face and then dunking them is widely applied now, but when he started in the early 1990s, it was a pioneering idea.

To this day, the teacher can be seen drumming on his belly, standing babies on the palm of his hand, holding them aloft like little emperors, and singing in the pool at Skálatún Development Home in Mosfellsbær. He is a remarkably unselfconscious man, adding to his remarkable charisma. The babies love him, and, it turns out, filmgoers do too. ♥

[gpu.is/film](https://gpu.is/film)

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## Various Events



The Laughing Cow explores torture through performance art

### Friday August 30th

★ **The Sagas & Shit With Grayson Del Faro**  
17:00 Penninn Eymundsson  
**Friday Party! 'Dirty Dancing' Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa  
**Bears On Ice: Golden Circle Tour**  
10:00 Various Locations  
**Bears On Ice: "Top Off" Party**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**The Laughing Cow**  
20:00 Tjarnarbió

### Saturday August 31st

**Túttigrúttarnar: Burlesque Show**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**Autumn Festival**  
13:00 Culture Houses  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Mosaic Rug Workshop: Multicultural Family Festival**  
13:00 Gerðarsafn  
**Bears On Ice Main Party**  
22:00 Curious

### Sunday September 1st

**Black Sundays: 'Rear Window' Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**Guided Tour In English**  
11:00 National Museum Of Iceland  
**Party Bingo With Sigga Kling**  
21:00 Sæta Svinið  
**Free Yoga Class**  
12:00 Loft  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**

19:30 Harpa  
**The Women's Story Circle**  
13:30 Grófin Culture House  
**Bears On Ice: Farewell Brunch**  
11:00 Jómfrúin  
**Menstruation Party: Discussions On Menstrual Activism**  
17:30 Friðarhúsið

### Monday September 2nd

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night**  
21:00 Gaukurinn

### Tuesday September 3rd

**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar  
**Finding Funding: Grants, What Are They Good For?**  
18:00 Reykjavík Tool Library

### Wednesday September 4th

**Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday September 5th

**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Celler  
**'The Light Bulb Conspiracy' Screening**  
18:00 Reykjavík Tool Library

### Friday September 6th

**Drag-Súgur: Disney Drag Show**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**Friday Party! 'How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days' Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa

### Saturday September 7th

**Slaygðu Helgi! 'Angel' S02E19**

**Screening & Live Podcast**  
13:00 Bió Paradís  
**Slaygðu Helgi! 'Angel' S02E120**  
**Screening & Live Podcast**  
13:00 Bió Paradís  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**Free Nature Therapy Walk**  
13:00 Hjarðarhagi 29

### Sunday September 8th



**Free Yoga Class**  
12:00 Loft  
**Slaygðu Helgi! 'Angel' S02E21**  
**Screening & Live Podcast**  
13:00 Bió Paradís  
**Slaygðu Helgi! 'Angel' S02E22**  
**Screening & Live Podcast**  
15:00 Bió Paradís  
**Icelandic Sagas: The Greatest Hits**  
19:30 Harpa  
**Black Sundays: 'Kurosawa's Dreams' Screening**  
20:00 Bió Paradís

### Monday September 9th

**Soulflow: Women & Queer Comedy Night**  
21:00 Gaukurinn  
**The Week In Iceland: News Recap**  
17:00 Reykjavík City Library Kringlan

### Tuesday September 10th



**Funniest Four: Comedy Show**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar  
**Yoga Workshop For Bread Eaters**  
18:01 Miðstræti 5

### Wednesday September 11th

**Open Mic Stand-Up Comedy**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar

### Thursday September 12th

**Café Lingua: Language Rendezvous**  
18:00 Veröld - Hús Vigdísar  
**How To Become Icelandic In 60 Minutes**  
19:00 Harpa  
**My Voices Have Tourettes**  
21:00 The Secret Cellar  
**Introduction To Bio Plastics: Starch**  
18:00 Reykjavík Tool Library  
**K-Iceland Festival 2019**  
20:30 Hverfisbarinn



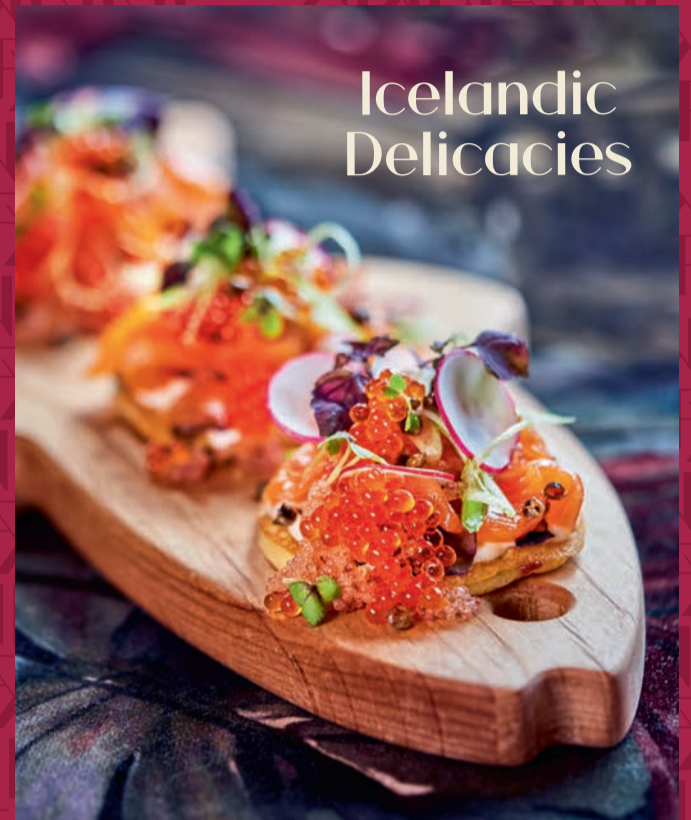
★ For event listings from Sept. 13th on, check out [happening.grapevine.is](http://happening.grapevine.is) or our app Appening, available on iOS and Android

# FJALLKONAN

KRÁ & KRÆSINGAR

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### ICELANDIC PLATTER

> Puffin, crowberry gel  
> Minke whale, malt glaze  
> Lamb tartar, chive mayo

### THE LAMB BURGER

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We're in love with the shape of you, Lord

MAKING OF AN ARTIST

# “The Internet Is My Third Parent”

Lord Pusswhip explains what made him the artist he has become

Words: Valur Grettisson & Þórður Ingi Jónsson Photo: Noisy/Steffi Meis



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www.sumac.is

Þórður Ingi Jónsson, or Lord Pusswhip, is definitely an oddball when it comes to music. He has played at Berlin's famed Berghain and is one of the rising stars in the electronic music world. He also once interned at the Grapevine. He told us what made him the artist he is.



## Mommy—or Ozzy?

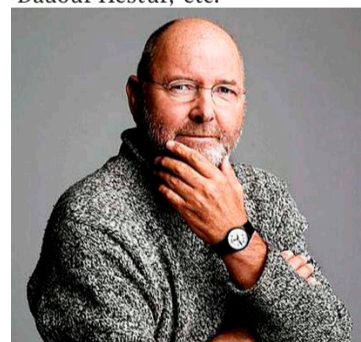
My older brother, visual artist Þórarinn Ingi Jónsson, was definitely a big influence when it came to weird music and art, and esoteric aesthetics. The first word that I ever spoke was either “Mommy” or “Ozzy”—my brother tried to teach me that word really early on and he would draw it on my knuckles.



## The mixtape

Around the age of six, Þórarinn showed me how to make a mixtape for my walkman—assorted music from my Ice Cube, Eminem and Limp Bizkit CDs. When he'd go

abroad, I would go into his room and stay there for hours, literally just staring at the backs of CDs or the strange pictures on the walls of Jim Morrison, Alfreð Flóki, Alfred Hitchcock, revolutionary figures and naked women. In retrospect, it was almost like a form of meditation for me, contemplating this mysterious and alluring world of art, music and magic. Some of the CDs he had that had a big influence on me were Snoop Dogg's 'Murder Was the Case,' Beck's 'Loser' EP, Miles Davis' 'Bitches Brew,' Ham's 'Dauður Hestur,' etc.

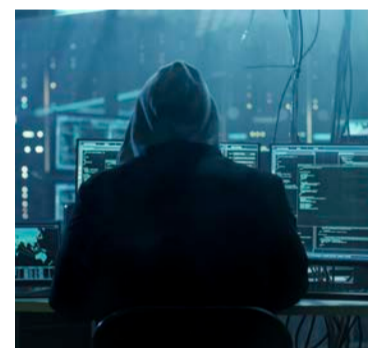


## Mom and dad

My parents are sculptress Steinunn Þórarinsdóttir and TV personality Jón Ársæll Þórðarson. My mom had to struggle for years as a sculptress and now she's very successful, so that's definitely an inspiration. Aside from being a dope artist (I like her early, creepy, Cronenbergian stuff), she is a really cunning networker and businesswoman. I think a lot of the tricks of the trade “osmosed” from her into my psyche—she's very ambitious, but always very sweet and professional.

I think my dad instilled a lot of interest in me when it comes to my thirst for knowledge—he studied parapsychology and used to be a

hippie, so I kinda wish I could go see what it would be like to go back in time and hang out with that version of my dad, although the current version is really cool as well. I'm living in Los Angeles for the moment and I've recently been on a big '60s psychedelic trip, so that would be groovy as tits.



## The tail-end of the analog generation

The internet is my third parent, I'm of the last generation that caught the tail-end of the analog generation but that has also roamed the pastures of the internets for years and years. The palette of musicians and artists that came up before the advent of the internet is totally different. We're living in a strange moment in cultural history where the super accelerated evolution of culture in the 20th century kind of came into an impasse, partially

## "The first word that I ever spoke was either 'Mommy' or 'Ozzy'"

because of the internet and the wealth of archives and information we have on there. The schizophrenic, jittery, ADHD is palpable in the music I make as well as some other underground artists I've been listening to recently, for example; JPEGMAFIA, Reptilian Boyz Club, Teejayx6, Rozz Dyliaams, Anti-World, and more. ♡



**A GUIDE THAT  
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Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**BIÓ PARADÍS**  
Every day from  
17:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**BRAVÓ**  
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11:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**BRYGGJAN  
BRUGGHÚS**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 700 ISK,  
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**FORRÉTTABARINN**  
Every day from  
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Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**GAUKURINN**  
Every day from  
14:00 to 21:00.  
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Wine 750 ISK,  
Shots 750 ISK.

**GEIRI SMART**  
Every day from  
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Beer 500 ISK,  
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**ÍSLENSKI BARINN**  
Every day from  
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Beer 700 ISK,

Wine 700 ISK.  
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Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**LOFT**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK.

**LOFTIÐ**  
Wed- Sun from  
16:00 to 21:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

**MARBAR**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 600 ISK,  
Wine 650 ISK.

**MIAMI**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,000 ISK.

**PABLO DISCOBAR**  
Every day from  
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Beer 700 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

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REYKJAVÍK**  
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Beer 600 ISK.

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23:00 to 1:00.  
Beer 890 ISK,  
Wine 890 ISK.

**PETERSEN SVÍTAN**  
Every day from  
16:00 to 20:00,  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 1,000 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,500 ISK.

**SÆTA SVÍNIÐ**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 645 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK.

**SESSION CRAFT  
BAR**  
Every day from  
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Beer 790 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**SKÚLI CRAFT BAR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:00.  
Beer 900 ISK,  
Wine 900 ISK.

**SLIPBARINN**  
Every day from  
15:00 to 18:00.

Beer 500 ISK,  
Wine 750 ISK,  
Cocktails 1,200 ISK

**SPÁNSKI BARINN**  
Every day from  
14:00 to 20:00.  
Beer 650 ISK,  
Wine 850 ISK.

**STOFAN CAFÉ**  
Every day from  
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Beer 750 ISK,  
Wine 950 ISK.

**SOLO**  
Everyday from  
15:00 to 18:00.  
Beer 800 ISK,  
Wine 800 ISK.

**SUSHI SOCIAL**  
Every day from  
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Beer 645 ISK,  
Wine 745 ISK.

**VEÐUR**  
Every day from  
12:00 to 19:35.  
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Book-art: It's a thing

## Paint The Poem Instead Of Writing

Akureyri Art Museum showcases Hekla Björt Helgadóttir's 'Paint The Ocean Instead Of Sailing'

Words: **a rawlings** Photo: **John Rogers**

### Book-Art Exhibition

Hekla Björt Helgadóttir's book-art is on display at Akureyri Art Museum until September 29th

In one frame, a crescent moon lays on its back. In another, a skeleton thinks. Cut-out words like "hernámi" (occupation) and phrases like "við fylgjum fuglunum" (we follow the birds) glue their meanings to images and objects near which they reside.

Hekla Björt Helgadóttir's book-art is currently on display in 'Vor', Akureyri Art Museum's group exhibition of thirty artists' works related to North Iceland. "I have been developing this way of producing art for quite some while," shares Hekla, "because I've always looked at myself as a poet but also as a fine artist. I'm very interested in blending those two, to work equally with text and images."

### Words cut deep

Hekla's combination of book and visual arts is an unusual form of publication after receiving a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of Iceland. Through her experiences in the Masters program, Hekla learned the value of editorial reflection. "I had to take myself out of my work and look at it from different poles, and listen a lot," she recalls. "It was great to receive criticism, which is always good in everything we do."

Her application of editorial skills has become physical in her book art, as she uses a cut-up technique to work found text into oneiric configurations.

### Penned and framed

One of two pieces Hekla has in the exhibition, 'Paint The Ocean Instead Of Sailing' hangs on the wall as a curiosity cabinet writ miniature. Hekla populated each compartment of an antique box with phrases, images, or objects. The antique box is reminiscent of the kind that held type for old letterpresses.

Each compartment functions as a page in the larger work, or as a stand-alone poem. The work invites multiple pathways through Hekla's text. "You could read it like a book—left to right, or you could read it right to left," she explains. "You could begin each section from the top to the bottom, or bottom to top. That's the main idea: it would make sense however you read it. You can read it like a snake, going between the boxes. Then you have created your own poem."

### Lost and found

Hekla's work combines not only text and image, but also found material with original. She writes some of the sentences in her work, and includes her own drawings. But the bulk of material she uses is found.

"I have a huge collection of really old books from the 60s and 70s," says Hekla, "with amazing texts and images in them on very good paper. I cut those out. Sometimes images yell at me that there's a sentence that belongs to them. That's when I use the typewriter or handwrite for the image. It's like a big laboratory, connecting pictures with text."

The boxes she uses to construct her book art are also found. "I col-

lect old, weathered drawers," she admits. "You can find a lot of old drawers if you go to the harbour or beaches. I don't know why, but they have a lot."

### Collectors' items

Glass bottle. Seashells, keys, cork. Mirror, spoon. In 'Paint The Ocean Instead Of Sailing,' found objects protrude from the pages they adorn. The objects are physical signifiers juxtaposed with their phonetic counterparts. The result is tangible surreality, the word made real. The result lulls the viewer into a calm bay of thinker-ship.

Rendering found material into such curious dreams is where the artistry lays in Hekla's visual poetry. The objects, she explains, "look like pieces of junk. But it's all about the stories behind these things. Usually I am the one who is creating the story behind them because I don't know the truth."

### From Akureyri to Berlin


"What I like about being in Akureyri is the energy," Hekla comments on her current city. "I work best here, something about the darkness in the wintertime and the mountains. It's peaceful and energetic, but I always need to move from here a couple times in the year to be more inspired by the world and see things I don't normally see here."

Hekla has previously resided in Reykjavik and Berlin, travelling between Iceland and Germany to seek inspiration and material for her poems. "Berlin is a great place to find all kinds of junk on the street. That's what I miss about it. You find more dramatic shit on the street there."

### Sailing into calmer waters

Though in their early stages, Hekla hints at her upcoming plans. "I have been working on poetry scripts, but I'm getting into the novel more and more. It relaxes me to write text that flows and flows together. It can be very exhausting to cut out sentences like an operating doctor. It's good to switch gears and go back to solid text."


Visit Akureyri Art Museum to view Hekla's book-art in the 'Vor' group exhibition of over thirty artists whose work engages with north Iceland. ☺



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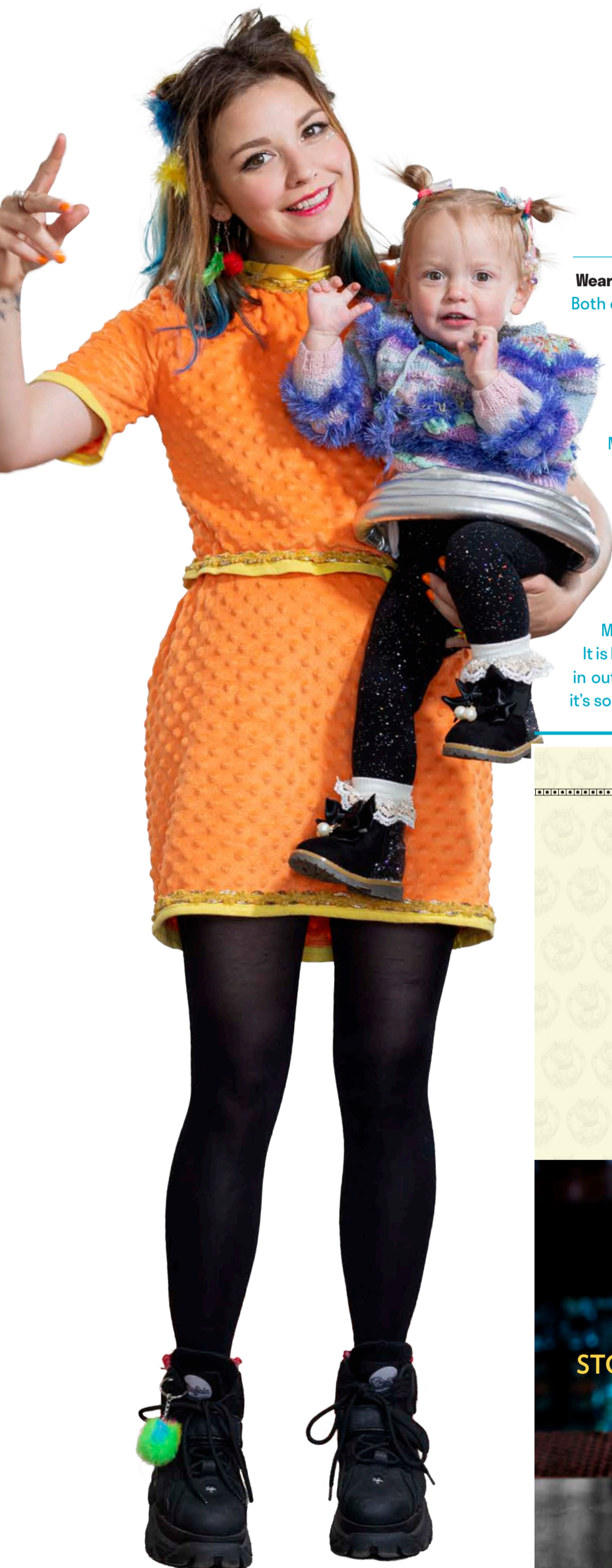


FANCIES is where we talk to Reykjavik's most fashion-forward figures about style

# Steinunn Eldflaug Harðardóttir & Eldey

Steinunn is dj flugvél og geimskip and Eldey is her daughter.

Words: Hannah Jane Cohen Photo: Art Bicnick

**Wearing**

Both outfits made by Gulla Mía

**Describe your style in five words:**

Colourful. Funny. Glittery. Clothes that others buy but never wear and then give to me. More is more! Maybe trippy, too?

**Favourite stores in Reykjavik:**

Maybe Fatamarkaðurinn by Hlemmur? I don't really know where to buy clothes.

**Favourite piece:**

My glittery jacket that Gulla gave to me. It is black with glitter that looks like stars in outer space. It is a bomber jacket but it's so light that you don't feel that you are

wearing it. But at the same time it is like a tent and when I wear it, it always feels like I am safe and nothing bad can happen.

**Something I would never wear:**

Shoes in the same colour as my feet—skin colored shoes! I once saw a woman in a dress and then her legs and shoes were the same colour and it looked so strange and somehow like her feet ended up turning into something else, but it did not look like feet and it did not look like shoes...

**Lusting after:**

A glowing fur jacket that I have seen online but is really expensive. I might buy LED lights in Íhlutir and furry pillows in Rúmfatalagerinn and ask Gulla to help me make one though! ✂



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2,200 ISK

#### PLAICE

Tomatoes, capers, parsley, lemon and butter  
2,200 ISK

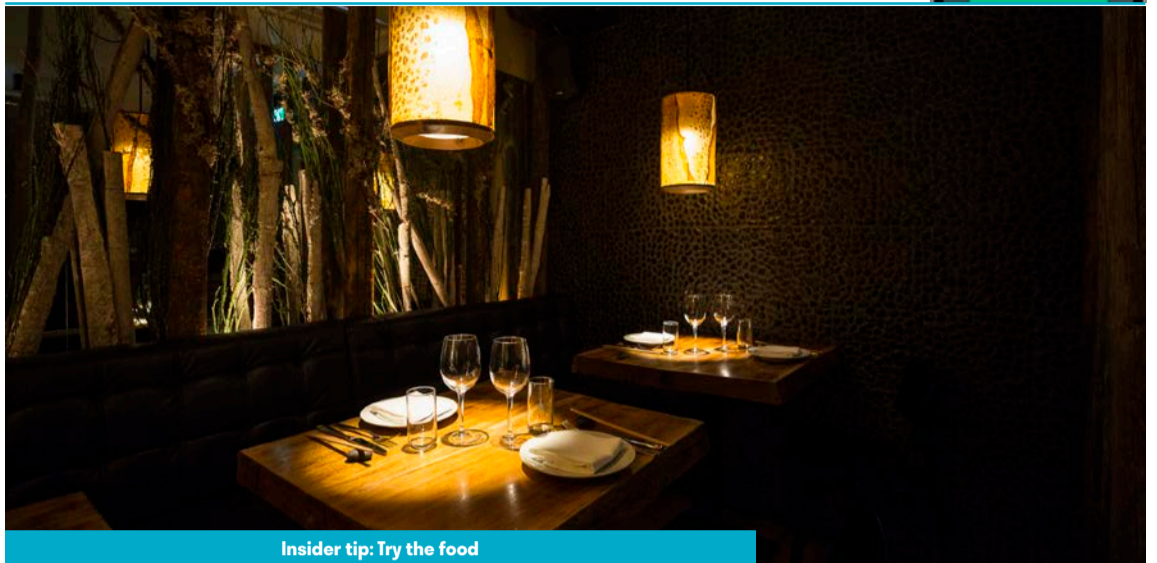
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# Food

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Insider tip: Try the food

## Irreverent Adoration

Whispers of Japan at Fiskmarkaðurinn

Words: Shruthi Basappa Photo: Art Bicnick

### Fiskmarkaðurinn

Visit the restaurant at Aðalstræti 12, and online at [fiskmarkadurinn.is](http://fiskmarkadurinn.is)

It's not easy to run a restaurant for over a decade in as fierce a market as Reykjavik and Fish Market is celebrating its 12th anniversary this year, no small feat for any establishment.

The buttercup yellow house continues to draw locals and visitors alike. It's 1891 heritage status adds its own quirky limitations on a modern-day restaurant; with only one common staircase through the two-storey restaurant. It is a common sight to see trays of food being sent up, even as one walks in through the front doors. A little caution is advised lest a newbie server drop something (it has happened to me).

None of the overdesign of sister restaurant Grillmarket finds its way here despite hints of it in the driftwood and moss accents. The seating is pleasantly clustered into zones—from the loungey upper floor to the more intimate kitchen-side seats, which are especially date-friendly. Service is eager without being overbearing and it is rare that there is a server who doesn't know the menu or wine well.

### Icelandic Japanese

Sure, the restaurant does not call itself Japanese, but when more than half the menu is dedicated to Japanese dishes, it's fair that they're recognised as such. The food itself is loyal to neither Icelandic nor Japanese cuisines and therein lies both its attraction and fault lines.

Does the absence of a lacy whisper of starch still qualify deep-fried thingamabits as tempura? Nope. But like all things fried, the tempura shrimp (3,900 ISK) goes down a treat.

Lip-service taxonomy is largely justified in Iceland but, as history shows us, it wasn't long ago that the country celebrated the opening of its first Japanese restaurant in 1994, Samurai. Consider its menu of yakitori, noodle dishes and sake, going beyond sushi and perhaps, beyond its time. In the absence of a puritan Japanese restaurant, Fish Market is a tolerable stand-in.

The sushi isn't a purist's wet-dream, nor is it a stodgy assembly line of cold pucks of rice and sadness. Much like the California roll, Icelandic sushi is about the creamy and crispy and less about the fish. Most of the sushi here is rightfully then, uramaki style—rice outside, plenty of toppings and fillings and

at least two kinds of sauces.

The Surf 'n' Turf sushi (4,900 ISK) is colourful, and notches above similar fare from other restaurants. Most are available as half portions and nigiri is offered only in pairs (ranging from 1,190 to 1,490 ISK). The sashimi platter (3,790 ISK) is Instagram friendly and still the best bang-for-your-buck offering in town. Bear in mind that the Sushi (5,400 ISK) and Sashimi platters have a generous overlap, a detail I wish the servers would be candid about.

### More than Sushi

The lightly salted cod (5,400 ISK) is considered their signature dish, and rightly so. With a base line of fork-tender cod, and a changing constellation of accompaniments, it is always a safe dish to bet on. I'd even recommend it over the meat options if you were to try just one dish here. I also like their silky robata grilled salmon (5,200 ISK). The generous hunk of fish is barely singed and makes for a satisfying meal with the Chapel Peak Sauvignon Blanc.

Restaurateur and head chef Hrefna Sætran has an uncanny ability to tap into the pulse of her target audience—well heeled diners who feel more worldly than their palates often are. To take the anxiety out of exploring the unfamiliar is a challenge well met at Fish Market by cushioning the new between generous slatherings of the familiar, albeit at the cost of diluted flavours or absent techniques distinctive to a dish. But the peppy service, bustling atmosphere and consistently delicious food makes this a keeper and repeater. ♡

What do you know about



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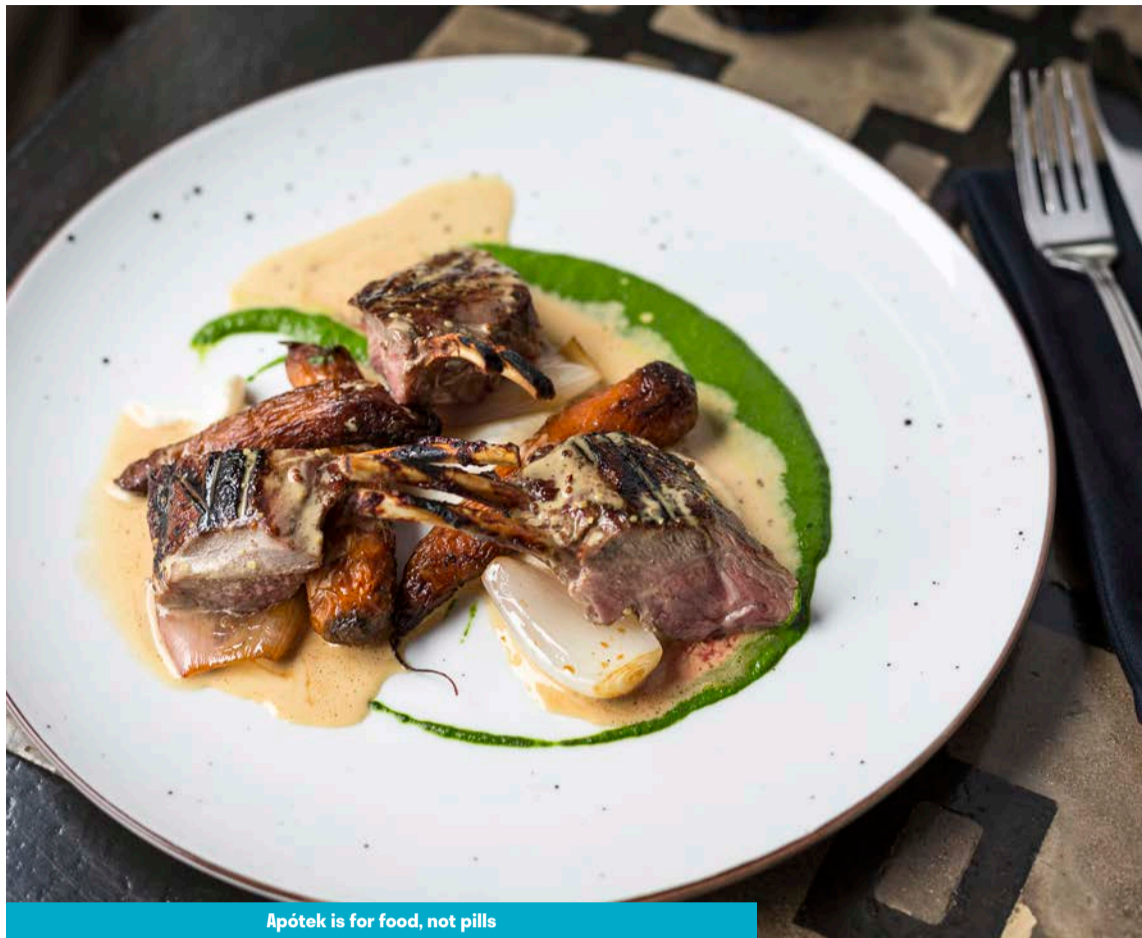
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# Racks Of Lamb And Painkiller Cocktails

An ambitious high-end restaurant and perennial favourite

Words: Ragnar Egilsson Photos: Art Bicnick

## Apótekið

Austurstræti 16  
[apotekrestaurant.is](http://apotekrestaurant.is)

Located at Austurstræti 16, Apótek is a historical building cum hotel and restaurant originally designed by Guðjón Samúelsson, Iceland's state architect and a dominant figure in Icelandic design of the 1920s and 30s. The building's pharmacological past lives on in its name—Apótek means pharmacy—and the cocktail list, which is divided up into categories like “painkillers” or “stimulants,” exemplifies this. Granted, it's a restaurant theme that seems to have caught on in just about every major city on the planet this millennium.

## Big old space

The aforementioned extensive cocktail list one of three things that sets Apótek apart from other Reykjavik restaurants in the same bracket. The other two being an ambitious (albeit very mousse-forward) dessert list, and the careful sourcing and dry-aging of their beef.

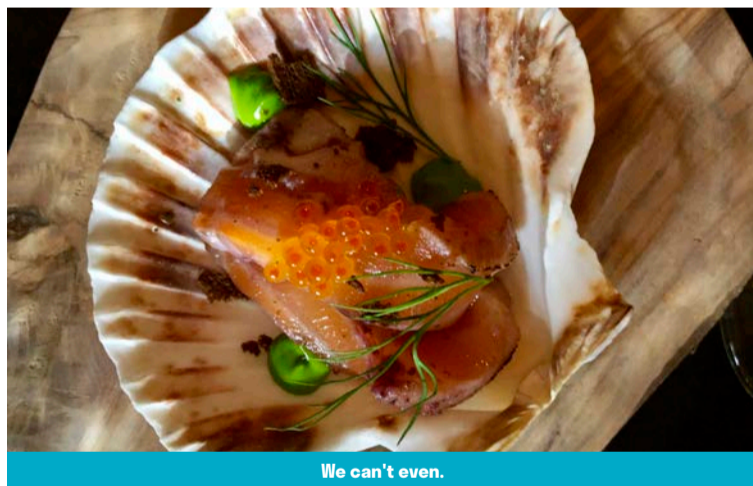
The prices can seem as opulent as the surroundings but there are deals to be had. Keep an eye out for lunch offers, breakfast and afternoon tea deals and even the occasional twofer.

## A wet lunch

The side of bread came out hotter than Dante in a bikini. A busy lunch hour meant it had barely had time to solidify. With it was the dollop of truffle butter that adorns

every carbohydrate in Reykjavik these days.

To go with the truffled bread, we picked up a pair of cocktails—



the Black Death Negroni (2,790 ISK) and the Stranger Tides (2,890 ISK). The former is a twist on the Negroni, using Iceland's aquavit-like drink Brennivín (aka “black death”) served with a whole star anise. The second was a blended malt with amaro and lime, served with a bouquet of mint. Both well balanced and avoided the all-too-common overt sweetness of the local cocktail scene.

## The solids

This was followed by a sampler log of appetizers (3,990 ISK). A very gentle sous-vide arctic charr served on a crispy green apple, with a couple of sprigs of samphire supplying the salt; minke whale with crispy Jerusalem artichoke; lamb tartare with pickled onions and smoked cream cheese; and

finally a puffin with goat cheese, berries and a dill emulsion.

My lunch date is one of the biggest spokespersons for a carnivore diet in the country so we stuck with the animal proteins. Mister Meaty McCaveman ordered a rack of lamb (6,390 ISK) with a handful of root vegetables. It was a good sized portion of lamb with a lovely grilled char, but it could have used more seasoning, and the celery root could have used another 10 minutes in the oven.

I had the plaice (3,890 ISK)—possibly the best fish on the planet and endlessly popular on both sides of the English channel. It featured the perfect Maillard brown fish skin and was served well by the citrus beurre blanc and samphire, but the potato mousse may have cost it some of its crispness.

Still, it's my go-to order on the Apótek menu.

## To top it off

Neither of us were feeling the desserts after a big lunch, but to do honour to Apótek's dessert-laden menu we indulged in a couple of macarons each. A salt-caramel one that was far too dense for the macaronsphere and nice, bright-blue licorice macarons which stained our mouths like we went down on a smurf.

Apótek holds its own as one of the key spots in the downtown high-end restaurant scene, with good-quality service and well-sourced ingredients. Some ingredients could use a few more minutes and a couple salt flakes, but I guess no one is perfect. ♡



# SNAPS

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# Travel



“We came thundering up the hill ahead of the other riders and their more sluggish ponies.”

## Get Off Your High Horse

Intern/shieldmaiden Josie saddles up

Words: Josie Gaitens Photos: Art Bicnick



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**Tour provided by:**  
[eldhestar.is](http://eldhestar.is)

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There is something deeply romantic about experiencing a country from horseback, but Iceland is particularly charming in this regard. Firstly, Iceland has its own unique breed of horse, the ancestors of which arrived with the first settlers in the 9th and 10th centuries. Cut off from other breeds, and impacted by natural selection via harsh winters and poor grazing, the animal that emerged as the national equine is just like the country it inhabits—small, but incredibly tough.

Secondly, there is a long-standing tradition of travelling Iceland by horse, which again can be traced back to the time of the settlers. In the Sagas, horses are mentioned often and in glowing terms. In the years that have followed, the relationship between literature and horse travel in Iceland has remained strong. The most well known of these writings must be W.H. Auden and Louis MacNeice’s ‘Letters from Iceland’ (1937).

### On the wild side

With these thoughts in mind, and with Auden and MacNeice’s book—my bible, for these past few months in Iceland—tucked into my backpack, it was time to find my own equestrian adventure in the land of ice and fire.

Eldhestar stables are located near Hveragerði, in the south west of Iceland. The area is well known for the

Reykjadalur valley hot springs, and one of the tours that Eldhestar offers is to ride up to the hot river and take a dip. It’s nothing short of idyllic—the combination of two Icelandic pastimes that are as old as the Vikings.

Auden said of riding attire, “as far as general clothing is concerned, the danger is of putting on too little rather than too much.” While his travel companion, the hardier Irish MacNeice, scoffed at his multiple layers of clothing, the advice today is remarkably similar. Despite the sunny day, the morning air was cold and layers were necessary.

### Horse Play

After getting our gear, we were presented with our (hopefully) perfectly-matched steeds. I was brought a soft piebald mare, who gave me a knowing look and immediately dragged me over to the nearest patch of grass to start eating. As I hauled her back towards where we were meant to be with all of the better behaved ponies, the instructor called after me, “she’s called Tónlist.” Tónlist means music. Tónlist sighed exasperatedly through her velvet nose, and just like that I was in love.

### Hot to... tölt

We started out winding through a tiny ‘forest.’ Icelanders and I have differ-

ing opinions on what constitutes significant woodland, but all the same, the dappled light shining through the leaves and the muffled sound of hooves was undeniably charming. After we had ridden for a while and had the chance to get used to our horses, it was time to try the infamous ‘tölt.’ Icelandic horses are not just prized for their strength and stamina. Over the years, the isolation of the population has led to genetic changes, one of which has resulted in Icelandic horses having different gaits. In addition to the standard walk, trot and canter/gallop, most Icelandic Horses also have a smooth, four-beat pace called the tölt, as well as an extremely fast ‘flying’ pace called skeið. While we had no need for the latter on a laid-back tour of the countryside, the tölt is a comfortable way to cover ground.

We made our way out of the woods and behind Hveragerði, through wide shallow rivers and past bright green fields. Eventually we reached the beginning of the Reykjadalur trail and it was time to let our horses stop to graze—something that Tónlist was overjoyed about.

### Nature Bath

The trail up to the hot river is rough and steep and I was amazed at our horses’ sure-footedness on the rocky terrain. We leaned forward in our saddles as we went uphill to make things easier, and admired how they are a natural fit for this landscape and topography. We reached the paddock around midday and from there it was just a short 15 minute hike to the hot river, past ominously bubbling mud springs and the ever-intensifying smell of egg. Reykjadalur is a popular trail these days and on a sunny day in August the river was packed with humans poaching themselves in the warm water. I am used to more bracing experiences of bathing in rivers so it took a while to get used to the bath-like temperatures, but lying in the middle of nowhere, hills rising up on either side, gently lapped by balmy waters—this is something I think I could get used to.

The route back to the stables was

the same as before, with the added adrenaline of this time heading steeply downhill on the back of another creature. But as before, the horses were steadfast and nimble (something I can only dream of achieving on Icelandic mountains). Once we reached flatter ground again, we decided as a group that it was time to up the ante. As we all had some riding experience behind us, our tour leader was happy to let us take the horses for a short gallop. Tónlist and I, it turns out, share many of the same loves in life—eating, going home, and going everywhere as fast as possible. She took little encouragement to break into bracing gallop, and we came thundering up the hill ahead of the other riders and their more sluggish steeds. If you have never had the opportunity to ride a galloping horse before, I can only promise you that it is one of the most exhilarating experiences in the world.

### Homeward-bound

We arrived back into the yard and I bade farewell to Tónlist—she was busy trying to maneuver her way over to another patch of grass and wasn’t the slightest bit interested—and it was time for home.

In the foreword for the re-printed edition of Letters From Iceland, published more than 20 years after the first, Auden mourns the loss of horses at every Icelandic farm. “I pictured to myself the pleasures of riding in the afternoons. But the farmer had exchanged his ponies for a Land-Rover. Sensible of him, but disappointing for me. Today, ponies are confined to tourist centres and riding, I should imagine, has become an expensive luxury.”

While Auden was not entirely incorrect in his assumptions, he would have been pleased to see that half a century on, the Icelandic horse is as revered as ever, and that choosing to explore the country in this way remains as enchanting as ever. 🐾



Galloping away from her job duties

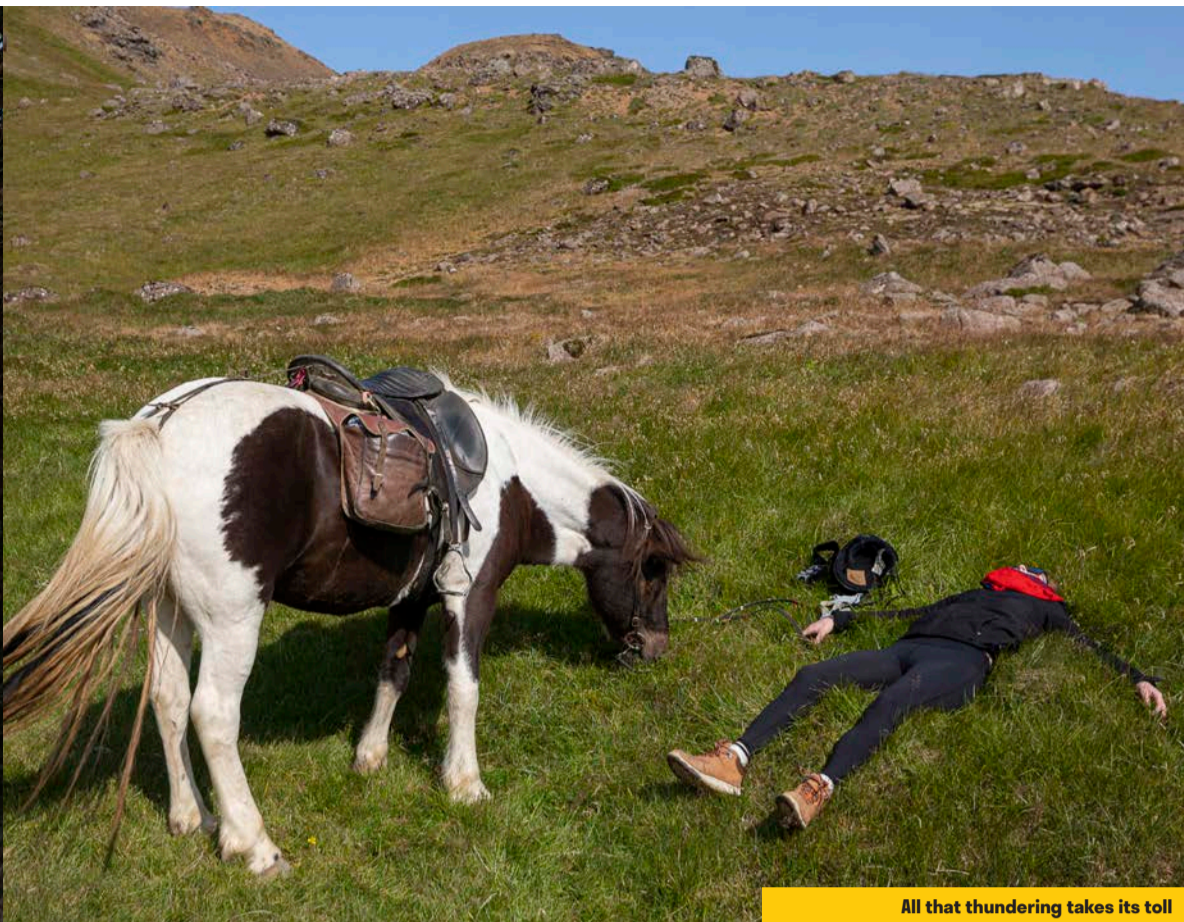
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# Travel

"Iceland's east dares you to fall in love with its wild geography and passionate population."

## Hearts, Arts, Eats, And East Heat

A road trip to the hot spots and art stops of East Iceland

Words: a rawlings Photos: John Rogers

Stuðlagil's mind-bending slopes



**Distance from Reykjavik:** 650 km (if driving the north route), 700 km (if driving the south route)

**How to get there:** Route 1

**Car provided by:** [kukucampers.is](http://kukucampers.is)

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We stare into the canyon. The glacial river Jökulsá á Brú roars by Stuðlagil, one of Iceland's largest collections of basalt columns. A dizzying slope, interwoven with precarious foot trails and rope handholds, invites us for a closer view of the river and basalt. The cold August rain has temporarily abated, giving us slippery access to the trails.

On either side of the canyon, two paths lead to Stuðlagil. We've taken the highlands road side, stopping at a busy car-park for a glimpse of the unusual geology. Tourists from Greece, France and Canada utter exclamations of wonder over this extraordinary sight, easy to understand despite language differences. We're all in awe, our adrenaline coursing fast as the icy water as we angle ourselves for jaw-dropping views of the hexagonal basalt and churning blue.

For scale, we photograph hikers on the far side of the canyon, who've walked for a few hours to get an even closer look. They wander above the basalt cliffs, stepping down careful paths to stand close to the water's edge. A six-year-old darts amongst crowberry bushes and birch scrub above the basalt. Our hearts are in our throats.

### Geothermally yours

Iceland's east dares you to fall in love with its wild geography and passionate population. Stuðlagil set the tone for our day's outing. We're full-throated hearts, aware of our precarity in the midst of nature danger. Wind-whipped from our first encounter, we leave the highlands for city life. Our next stop is the newly opened Vök geothermal spa.

Vök's architecture is a discrete

grass-roofed concrete structure, half-buried in the hill alongside Urriðavatn. In Icelandic history, the lake raised suspicion for housing a sea monster, since ice would not form in this location over the winter. Nowadays, it's understood the lack of ice is due to the lake's geothermal hotspot. Vök capitalizes on this wellspring, offering an outdoor spa with multiple heated pools that stretch into the lake's body. One can soak in 40-degree hot water with a hand lazily dipping into the 5-degree lake lapping the hotpot's lip.

As we enter the facilities, we're offered to create our own infusion with local Icelandic herbs harvested from Lagarfljót's ultimate organic farm, Vallanes. We heap birch leaves, thyme, and chamomile into cups and pour over hot water, carrying our treat into the change rooms and beyond to the hotpots. We're warmed inside and out.

### Húswarming, heart-warming

With a glacial river and geothermal wellness fuelling our cores, we're ready to make friends. Our eyes are wide and our hearts full to bursting as we set off to explore the arts and culinary offerings of Egilsstaðir and Seyðisfjörður.

In Egilsstaðir, the regional art house Sláturhúsið converted an old slaughterhouse into a maze of arts-enabling rooms. Sláturhúsið's director, Kristín Amalía Atladóttir, shows us around the facilities, which include two exhibition rooms, a music-recording studio, an apartment for visiting artists, and a future podcast studio. They have begun construction on a black box theatre, too, which will cement Sláturhúsið as the performing

arts centre of the east.

Next door, Tehúsið is cosiness incarnate. A teahouse with delectable vegan treats and a few rooms functioning as a hostel, Tehúsið's purveyor is Halldór Warén. Also the former manager of Sláturhúsið, Halldór is similarly making arts dreams for the region come true as he arranges concerts for touring musicians.

### Dreams at the end of the rainbow

To the east of Egilsstaðir lays an artsy haven nestled in the crook of an east fjord. The town of Seyðisfjörður splays before us as we descend the mountain. It's home to the Skaftfell Centre for Visual Art, the LungA Art Festival, and the LungA School for arts practitioners.

As we approach, we spot the Smyril passenger ferry in the harbour. The town bustles with passengers about to cross the North Atlantic, eagerly snapping photos of the rainbow walkway leading up to the town's robin's-egg blue church. An actual rainbow paints the sky over the town, too, as we step into beloved sushi restaurant Norð Austur.

### Sushifjörður

We receive a warm greeting from Jim van Woensel, our Norð Austur host. Originally from the Netherlands, he spends months every year in this Icelandic home-away-from-home working at Norð Austur. Though a nationally celebrated sushi restaurant, Jim will test the vegetarian menu on us this evening. The menu is scheduled to launch next year.

We chat with Jim between courses, enthusing about Seyðisfjörður's any-

thing-is-possible mentality and the heart-stopping yuzu liqueur. Seyðisfjörður's rainbow has made it onto the plate, too, with a flower-garnished wakame salad and maki rolled with avocado, shiitake, and sweet egg. One of the finest restaurants in all of Iceland, Norð Austur ups the cool caché of Seyðisfjörður.

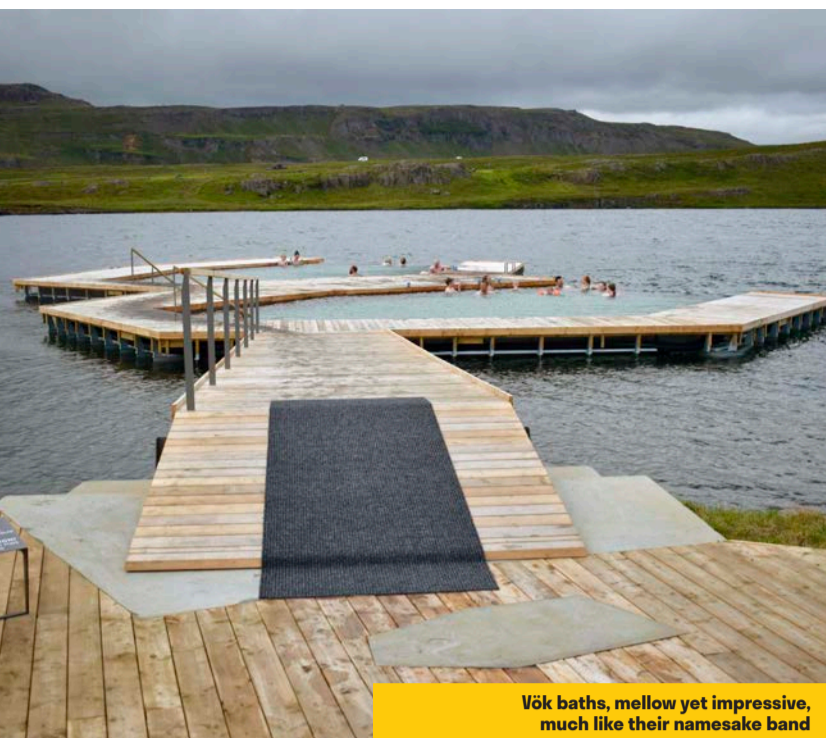
### Sirkus FTW

Our final stop is Sirkus. Though new to Seyðisfjörður, Sirkus is the stuff of Icelandic lore. The bar was a mainstay in Reykjavik social life until it closed in 2007. The following year for the Frieze Arts Fair, Icelandic art collective Kling og Bang set up a temporary commemoration of Sirkus by erecting it in London. News of Sirkus' return to Iceland, this time in the cool kids' capital of Seyðisfjörður, has prompted talk of pilgrimage to the beloved bar.

One of the instigators of Sirkus-Eastfjords, Philippe Clause hugs us as we enter the bar. As a practicing visual artist, Philippe's entrepreneurship has led him to design clothing and sample plants to make local scents. He is also envisioning the old bookshop as a future artist residency and studio gallery. He's the ideal champion for Sirkus' majestic return.

Sirkus is alive and well in Seyðisfjörður, with every seat in the house occupied. The lights are dim, the bar is well-stocked, and enticing conversation burbles from every corner of the room. We wish there was more time to stay in Seyðisfjörður so we could invite our new friends from Sláturhúsið, Tehúsið, and Norð Austur for drinks. It's an inspired group inhabiting Iceland's East region. Our hearts have grown three sizes from our brief but bountiful encounters. 🍷





Vök baths, mellow yet impressive, much like their namesake band



Tehúsið packs so much charm into a small space



Legendary Icelandic bar Sirkús, re-animated



Seyðisfjörður church, inviting all

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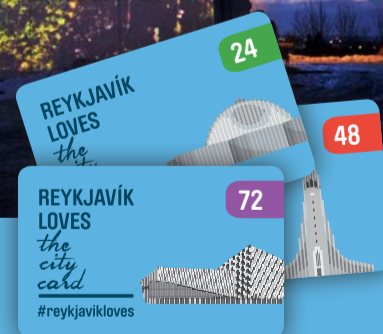
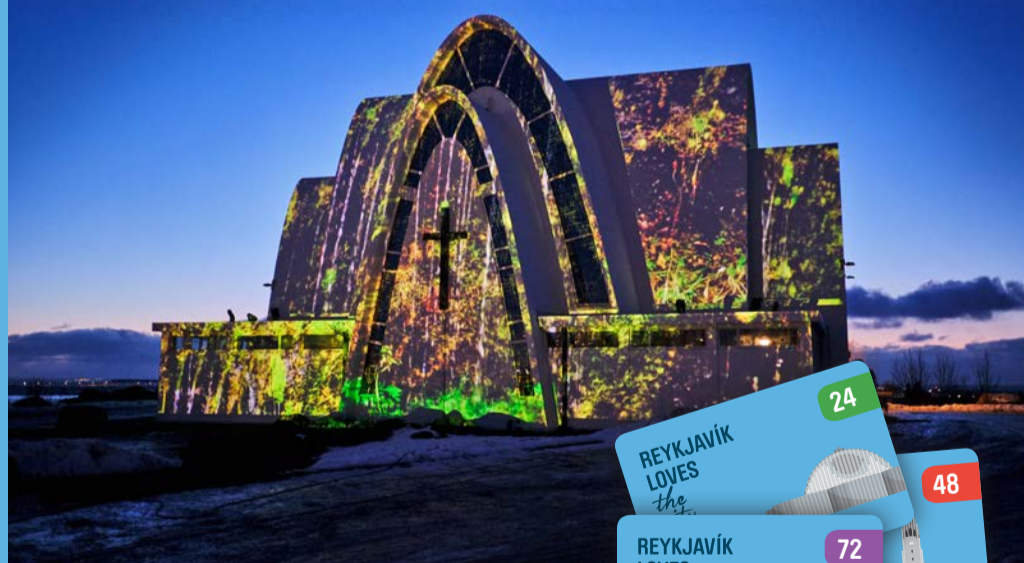
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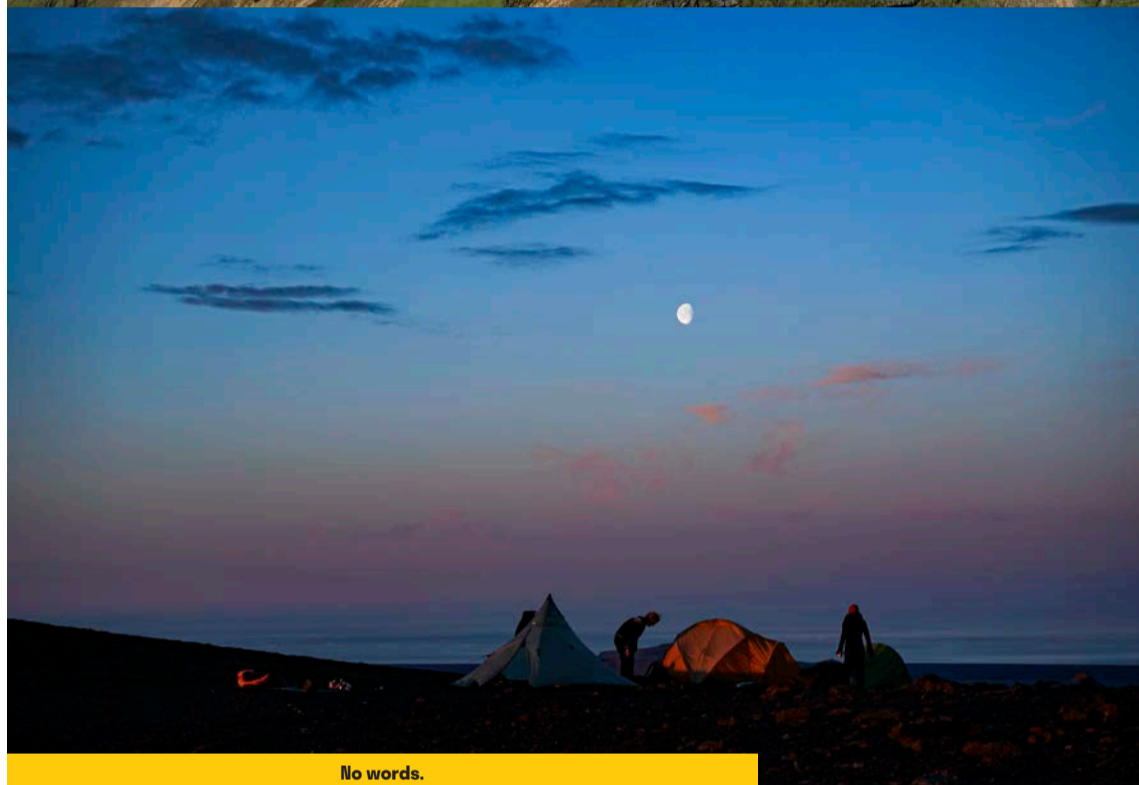


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# Travel

Distance from Reykjavík: 209 km  
How to get there: Route 1 south to Vík  
then turn onto route 214



No words.

## DESTINATION

# Pakgil

Pack up and go!

Words: **Josie Gaitens** Photos: **Emma Romeijn**

The beauty of living in Iceland is that even if you reside right in the heart of downtown Reykjavík, you are never more than a short drive from being in the middle of nature. In the summer, when the days are endlessly long and every second Monday seems to be a public holiday, it's possible to message a few friends as you walk out the door of the office on Friday evening, throw a tent or two in the back of the car, and be on the road by 6pm. And so, that's exactly what we did.

Many people who come to Iceland don't have the luxury of an impromptu trip. There is so much to see in this tiny country that visitors often have tightly packed schedules and detailed itineraries. But for residents, or guests enjoying an extended stay, the joy of spontaneity is one to be treasured.

## Heading south

We decided that our destination this time was the south. Specifically, Pakgil, a small campsite in

a valley just north of Vík. It's a few hours drive away from Reykjavík, but with the weekend stretching out before us and the sun on our side, the prospect of spending a while in the car cruising through the beautiful, ethereal scenery of southern Iceland was not one we minded.

We arrived at Pakgil just as the sun was beginning to touch the tops of the surrounding mountains, setting the clouds alight with pink and orange hues. We strapped on our packs and headed up an almost vertically-steep incline, puffing and panting and stopping regularly to catch our breath and admire the view. Pakgil valley is deeply lush and green, with views that leave you as breathless as the hike. Small streams criss-cross the land, leaving streaks of fluorescent-green flora on either side. We walked for hours, kept awake by our delight in the landscape and the omnipresent sun, and sustained by mars bars and mountain water.

## Glacial vista

What we were seeking was a camping spot with a good view over the expansive Vatnajökull glacier. This meant wild camping, which is a controversial topic in Iceland—and for good reason. With the tourism boom, many popular parts of the country have seen footfall increase exponentially. Whilst most visitors are mindful of the fragility of the landscape and respect it appropriately, all it takes is a small percentage of idiots to mess things up. The results can be catastrophic for the unique and vulnerable ecosystems that exist in Iceland.

So, while wild camping is not illegal in Iceland, as is commonly misreported, it is highly discouraged. Our group was made up of experienced hikers and campers, with the right gear and equipment and an ex-ranger as a guide. If you know what you are doing, wild camping is a great way to enjoy nature. If you don't, do yourselves, the rescue services, and nature a favour and stay in a marked campsite.


Our efforts were thoroughly rewarded by the most spectacular sunrise that lit up the whole glacier not long after 2am. We sat on the mountain, with drams in hand, surrounded by friends and views so beautiful it was almost laughable. As Friday evenings go, I've had worse. 🍷



# Island Life

News From The Icelandic Countryside

Words: **Andie Fontaine**



A proposed firing range in Borgarnes has not passed the sniff test of the Iceland Environmental Agency, who argue that the proposed site range is too close to residential areas—not for potential stray bullets, but on account of the noise.

A close call happened on a country road in northeast Iceland, when **the trailer on an oil truck came loose**. No accident occurred as a result, nor were there any leaks from the tanker, which was safely emptied of its cargo.

Down south, you should probably be made aware that Reynisfjara is closed. The black sand beach has been the site of recent rockslides, making it even more dangerous to visit. Consider any other location of natural wonder in Iceland in the meantime.

## Best Of Iceland

A selection of winners from our Best Of Iceland travel magazine



**Best accomodation**  
**Wilderness Center,**  
**Egilsstaðir**

Ever wanted to live like Icelanders of yore? Well, you can experience it here. They offer authentic old-style accommodation that sends you back in time—whether you want to become a landowner, a farmer, or just an ordinary person. Every detail has been considered by the charming hosts. There's a range of trips and activities on offer, and you'll have access to a bath house and sauna.



**Best meal**  
**Norð Austur,**  
**Seyðisfjörður**

Reputed to make the best sushi in Iceland, this is what happens when you import expert chefs from overseas and let them run wild with fresh Icelandic seafood. "The sizzling salmon, served on a hot stone, was so good I almost cried," said the panel. It's worth the drive from Egilsstaðir—local fisherman deliver unusual catches to the restaurant, so expect some curious specials.



**Must-see spot**  
**Mjóifjörður**

One of the most remote fjords in the east, the drive there is an adventure in itself. Following the steep slopes down to a tiny village of about 20 inhabitants also provides you with astonishing views of the surrounding mountains and the beautiful Klifbrekkufossar waterfalls. Also highly recommended is a trip to the Dalatangi lighthouse. Don't rush it: life out East is slow, so sink into the rhythm and enjoy it all the more.




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EDDA RECAP

## Hávamál

The sayings of the high one

Words: Grayson Del Faro Illustration: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

In this series, we illuminate the individual poems of the Edda—that most famous, epic masterpiece of Icelandic literary tradition—with humour, vulgarity and modern realness. If you're still confused, Google 'Saga Recap.'

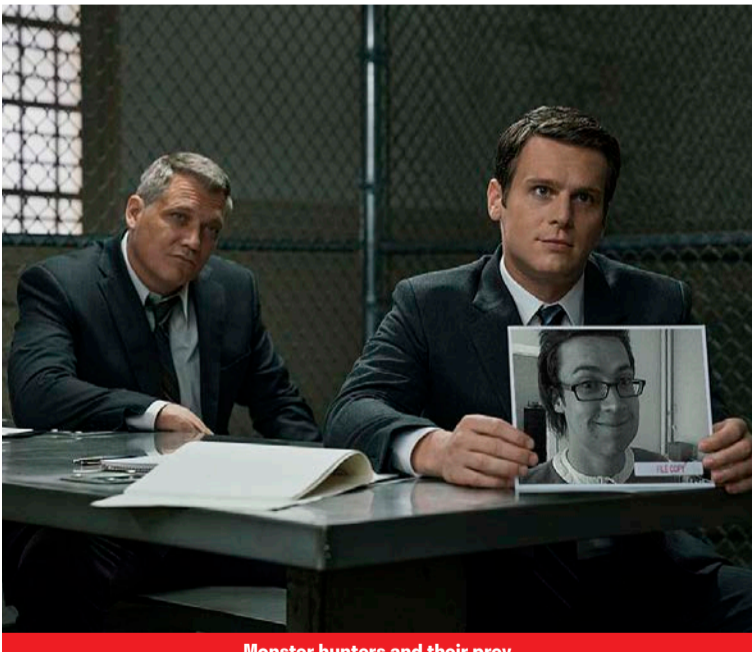
not be a dumb-ass." All that said, it remains popular and quotable today because frankly, it does speak a few universal truths.

This poem is one of the most famous from the Edda, but it doesn't have much of a story. It's just a very, very, very long list of advice from Óðinn, the god of wisdom. I'll summarize it as a short list, since it's kind of the Old Norse version of those "12 tips on how to suck a dick" lists from Cosmopolitan magazine. Only it's more like "164 tips on how to travel, be nice, and also

1. If you're not at home, you don't know shit. So keep your wits about you when you travel. Duh.
2. Be smart but like, don't be a dick about it. Nobody likes a know-it-all.
3. Be careful with alcohol because it can fuck you uuuuuup. One time I got sooooo drunk and the next day I was like, "Woah. I gotta watch myself on this shit."

4. Don't be greedy. Even cows know when to stop eating. I'm talking to you, Forbes' list of The World's Billionaires! And all you Icelandic dumbfucks in the Panama Papers! Have you learned nothing from my centuries old wisdom?
5. Be generous. To be generous is totally the best thing any person could ever hope to be in the entire known universe.
6. But also be careful who you're generous with. There are trustworthy people and sneaky fuckin' snakes, you know? Be generous, but also watch your back, man.
7. Don't be fooled by money. Poverty is not a crime. Extreme wealth without generosity is a crime.
8. Never trust women. They were born to lie.
9. One time I saw this babe and I wanted to bone her. She said I should come back later and when I did there was a bitch in her bed. Not a metaphorical bitch, but an actual female dog! I mean, what the hell?
10. This other time, I slept with some girl just so I could sneak out in the morning with this super expensive booze she had. Talk about win-win!
11. Learn to read. It's hard, but super useful.
12. You don't know any magic spells? Lol. Sucks to be you.

**Morals of the story:** Basically, 1-7 are pretty legit and 11 is obvious. Fuck 8-10. I guess 12 is, uh, better than all that sexist garbage, at least. ♡



Monster hunters and their prey

TV GODDESS

## 'Mindhunter'

Words: Lóa Hlín Hjálmtýsdóttir

First of all: This is not the show you should be watching when you're weaning yourself off of anti-anxiety medication. The stories in Mindhunter are based on true crimes of real serial killers and are not a good pairing with brain zaps and a delicate, emotional state of mind.

I'm probably stating the obvious here, but serial killers are the least relatable people in the world. I can't even put a band-aid on someone without feeling woozy or nauseous and here we have these serial killers prancing around stabbing and choking people to death and doing weird things with

their mothers' throats. In the series, reality is used as a skeleton for the fictional characters involved in solving the cases. It's set in the time when behavioural studies were a new field—probably the late seventies or early eighties. I honestly can't be bothered to look it up. While watching the show I found myself not invested in the fictional characters and the backstories of the FBI agents and their families and was just waiting for the next interview with a known serial killer. I felt like the people who made the show were trying hard to make me care about the fictional characters. Instead I was left feeling like a psychopath, emotionally numb and unable to empathise with other people. I just realized maybe the screenwriters are geniuses. I guess the problem with having true crime hall of famers in the show is that when they're measured against fictional characters, the viewer is likely to prefer the true, albeit gruesome story. It's like the difference between your friend telling you about what happened to them yesterday as opposed to telling you about what they dreamt the night before. I still recommend the show, it's great and absolutely nothing like listening to someone telling you about their dreams or fantastical ideas that you couldn't care less about. ♡





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WELL, YOU ASKED



## Sagas, Slang and Socializing

Words: Logan Sigurðsson  
Photo: Art Bicnick

### Is it GIF or JIF?

This can all be settled with a history lesson. In the Sagas was the notorious tale of Jón Ívar Friðriksson. While other Vikings told stories of the divine Odin conquering his enemy, whose dead body we now know as planet Earth, radical Jón was descending into madness. Spewing subatomic particle, big-bang nonsense, he gained the reputation of quite the animated fellow. Images of “Jón The Animated” were drawn throughout the generations to warn young people of the dangers of fake news. His initials “JIF” have since been coined to represent all animated images. So given Icelandic linguistics, the correct pronunciation is “YIF.”

### What is a Plebbi?

Odin if I know. As a foreigner, it’s been described to me in a few different ways, but the word originates from “plebs” used by the Roman Empire’s upper-class to describe commoners. Now, I guess, it’s used for someone who is pretending to be someone they aren’t—like your bougie name-brand friend, your suave bachelor still-lives-with-his-mom poser friend, or your pseudo-intellectual music-experimentalist friend. Wow, you really need new friends.

### What are the best ways to make friends in a new country?

Go out to where the people are! Try new things like volunteering or taking a class. Join one of the many local groups that share your interests to meet like-minded people. Or start your own group that knits Icelandic sweaters for the local cats. Don’t let anyone tell you your dreams are foolish, Karen, live your truth. 🍷

Send your unsolvable (UNTIL NOW) problems to [grapevine@grapevine.is](mailto:grapevine@grapevine.is) or tweet us at [@rvkgrapevine](https://twitter.com/rvkgrapevine).

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HORROR-SCOPES

# Star-crossed Lovers

Star-ted from the bottom, now we here

Words: Josie Gaitens & Hannah Jane Cohen Image: Kosmonatka

In *HorrorScopes*, Grapevine’s dedicated team of amateur astrologists break down your upcoming weeks based on the movement of solar winds and the size of the moon and stuff.

firmly lodged in your left nostril. Luckily, Brenda quickly and deftly removes it with her long, dexterous tongue. You knew dating an anteater would be a dream!



**Aries**  
You have never understood the Icelandic proverb ‘It is late to fence in the well when the child has fallen into it.’ If you don’t build a fence, they’ll all get out again?



**Taurus**  
They thought the Reynisfjara rockfall was an accident. “Don’t be silly! Landslides are acts of nature,” they laughed. But we know, Taurus. We know.



**Gemini**  
You take your crush to the new bubble tea place Chatime but, unfortunately, while laughing at your own joke, you accidentally get a tapioca pearl



**Cancer**  
No one talks about the second coming of Óðinn.



**Leo**  
Leos are notorious control freaks, but do your best not to sweat the small stuff. Did you hear that the freaking glaciers are melting? Get your priorities straight.



**Virgo**  
It is, objectively, too late now to say sorry.



**Libra**  
As your sign suggests, you can’t help taking a balanced look at literally everything, and it’s becoming a real problem. But on the other hand,



The darkest Zodiac

maybe it’s not.



**Scorpio**  
Alright Scorpios. We don’t like you, you don’t like—literally anyone, come to think of it. But if there’s one thing that we can agree on, it’s that Mike Pence is coming to Iceland and something must be done. Fly, my pretties, fly!



**Sagittarius**  
For the love of all that is holy and tasteful, stop listening to “Galway Girl,” please.



**Capricorn**  
In hopes of connecting with your true essence, you seek out some Icelandic sheep

to spend quality time with your brethren. Unfortunately, the sheep sense your air of desperation and shun you just like your human ‘friends’ before them.



**Aquarius**  
Those iodine tablets aren’t gonna hoard themselves. Nuclear winter, here we come, baby! #springbreak #thereisnospring



**Pisces**  
You’ve had a blast, Pisces, but all good things must come to an end. Nothing lasts forever except for love, music, and your insatiable desire for pints. Skál! 🍷

**CITY SHOT** by Art Bicnick

When in doubt, put a bird on it

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**LAST WORDS**

# Pence In Iceland: Cui Bono?

Words: **Andie Fontaine**

International headlines were made earlier in August when it was widely reported that Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir would not be in Iceland during the time of US Vice President Mike Pence's visit. However, since it has now come to light that the two will, in all likelihood, have a meeting after all, we should ask ourselves: who benefits?


One of the stated purposes of the visit concerns Iceland's strategic location in the North Atlantic within the context of a growing Russian presence in the Arctic. As you may know, there is a US military base in Keflavík, and the Americans have designs on "upgrading" it. In other words, the United States is very keen on some kind of military partnership with Iceland, with the probable intent of using us as a launching point for keeping an eye on Russia.

While Iceland is a NATO member, it is certainly not obliged to cater to any of the wishes of the American military. An increased American military presence here may actually do us more harm than good, putting us directly between the United States and Russia. The Americans need us more than we need them; something I sincerely hope Icelandic state actors remember when Pence arrives hat in hand.

But there is also a moral aspect at play here. Iceland has been very vocal in condemning Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte; his use of police violence against political opponents and his repressive domestic policy, having even taken the matter up with the UN.

Where, then, are the words of public condemnation for the US government? Mike Pence is a far-right Christian extremist who has, in words and actions, sought to oppress queer people in the United States, and who works for an administration that has not only encouraged but condoned police violence against political opponents. US domestic policy actively oppresses Black people, immigrants, queer people, journalists and anyone who disagrees with the White House.


Does the Icelandic government have a consistent moral compass? They'll have to demonstrate that themselves when Pence darkens our door in September. 🇮🇸






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